House unanimously passes bail reform bill. PAGE 3
NMC, PSS expand education workforce with Teacher Academy. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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WEDNESDAY AUGUST 2, 2023
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SAFER INTERSECTION
The traffic lights at the intersection of Husga St., Kopa Di Oru St., and Chalan Pale Arnold on Middle Road were up and functional during the weekend after months of installation and road work. The project also installed islands to guide motorists and crosswalks to guide pedestrians.
LEIGH GASES

Mañagaha has a new concessionaire

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Mariana Global Inc. shall pay $800K in annual base rent, 9% business gross receipts rent; over $200K in annual public benefit contribution

The Department of Public Lands has entered an agreement with Mariana Global Inc. to operate the Managaha Island's exclusive concession for 10 years, in exchange for payment of $800,000 in annual base rent, 9% business gross receipts rent, and over $200,000 in annual public benefit contribution.

According to the copy of the master concession operator agreement obtained by *Saipan*

See MAÑAGAHA on Page 4

'Hire retired tax enforcers to augment Tax Collection Task Force'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) believes that former or retired tax enforcers and collectors of the Department of Finance should be rehired to beef up the tax collection enforcement and collection activities of the Tax Collection Task Force and thereby get as much as possible of the $121.4 million in outstanding tax collectibles.

Babauta introduced Friday Senate Resolution 23-09, urging Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and the Tax Collection Task

See HIRE on Page 4

Babauta

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
59

Man accused of rape continues fight for disqualification of CNMI's judges

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defendant in an ongoing rape case in the CNMI Superior Court continues to fight for the disqualification of all sitting Superior Court judges from hearing his case and has, once again, requested a stay on court proceedings pending a Supreme Court decision.

William Abraczinskas, the defendant in the case, has filed another motion for a stay of court proceedings, this time with the Superior Court, pending the Supreme Court's

See MAN on Page 4

Welcome to a new *Saipan Tribune* website

Effective midnight last night, *Saipan Tribune* launched a redesigned and revamped website that aims to meet the latest demands of news consumers, providing not only standard news but also video snippets, photo galleries, e-edition of the newspaper, and all other ways of how people consume news.

We have retained the original URL—www.saipantribune.com—but the website itself has been rebuilt from the ground up to give our news readers a more robust news site that can better respond to our readers' needs, whether for keeping up with the latest happenings in the community or for doing research.

Launched in partnership with BLOX Digital, this cloud-based news delivery will also invite you to sign up for either the top stories, special offers, weekend round-ups, or for all of them! It all depends on you.

As with many innovations these days, the new website is by no means a finished product and we welcome feedback and suggestions on how we can make a better product that responds to your needs as our reader.

As we transition into this new website, I will be sharing with you and highlighting some of its new and fresh features in the days ahead.

Sensiramente,

JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Managing Editor

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Chico de Marianas launches the CNMI's first homegrown chocolate souvenir last Friday.
PAGE 11

WORLD
Russian ballistic missiles slam into President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown Monday.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
Angus Cloud, the actor who starred on the HBO series "Euphoria," has died. He was 25.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Hawaii could see a big hurricane season, but most homes aren't ready

HONOLULU (AP)—Jan Pappas and Ronald Yasuda hired a contractor to fasten the roof of their 1960s-era home to their walls with metal plates and nails so high winds of a potential hurricane wouldn't blow it away.

Their motivation? Global warming fueling natural disasters around the planet.

"It's happening right now, every place in the world," said Pappas, who installed the so-called hurricane clips after watching extreme weather in other parts of the world. "How are we to expect that it's not going to happen here to us?"

Many of Hawaii's homes are even more vulnerable than theirs. Two-thirds of the single-family homes on Oahu, an island of 1 million people that's home to Honolulu, have no hurricane protections. That lack of preparedness is unnerving residents this hurricane season as the islands prepare for the possibility of a one-two weather punch: the increased odds of a tropical cyclone that come with any El Nino year combined with climate-fueled ocean warming that could mean bigger and more frequent tropical storms around the islands overall.

El Nino, a naturally occurring warming of equatorial waters in the central and eastern Pacific, affects weather worldwide. Already this year, Hawaii has felt its wrath as a tropical storm passed south of the Big Island last month. On top of that, warming oceans heated by climate change could strengthen tropical storms and nudge them farther north, potentially putting them on a collision course with Hawaii.

Hawaii's experience stands in contrast to the U.S. territory of Guam, where stronger building codes and years of rebuilding after powerful storms means most homes are now made of sturdy concrete. In May, a Category 4 typhoon with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph (241 kph) slammed into the island. The storm destroyed some older homes, but the concrete ones generally emerged unscathed.

Many of Hawaii's single-family homes are single-wall construction, a style phased out only in the 1970s, said Gary Chock, a licensed structural engineer.

Hawaii's temperate climate means homes don't need to trap heat, so most don't have an additional wall to contain insulation. Structurally, their foundations aren't often properly anchored to the ground. Their lower cost made them Hawaii's preferred construction style for decades.

They proved particularly vulnerable to powerful winds during Hurricane Iwa, which just missed Kauai in 1982, and Hurricane Iniki, which slammed directly into Kauai a decade later.

"The entire roof of the home might be decapitated by wind," Chock said of single-wall homes hit by Iniki. "And the whole roof, in one piece, would just fly off the walls, and the rest of the structure would fall apart thereafter."

Iniki damaged or destroyed 41% of Kauai's 15,200 homes with 130- to 160-mph (209- to 257-kph) winds. Seven people were killed, and 100 were injured.

After Iwa, new homes had to have their roofs secured to their walls. After Iniki, new construction had to strap upper stories to lower stories and connect the foundation to the first floor.

Chock said a home built to code today would withstand a Category 3 hurricane, with winds up to 130 mph (209 kph), if a structural engineer supervised construction. Homes built on mountain ridges and in valleys must be able to withstand higher winds.

Homes built before the building code changes aren't required to have these features, and few homeowners have retrofitted with hurricane clips like Pappas and Yasuda. Sixty-four percent of single-family homes—or 125,000 houses—on Oahu lack any hurricane protections, according to a 2019 study by Honolulu.

Bob Fenton, Federal Emergency Management Agency administrator for the region that includes both Hawaii and Guam, said these homes are more easily damaged by Category 3 or 4 tropical cyclones.

The state is looking at some nonprofit and volunteer programs that could help fortify homes, said James Barros, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency administrator.

"But it starts with the individual house—taking a look at, 'How vulnerable is my house to winds?'" he said.

Guam already faces ferocious storms with some regularity.

The U.S. territory nearly 4,000 miles (6,400 kilometers) west of Hawaii tends to have more—and more powerful—tropical cyclones because its sea surface temperatures are higher. The ocean around Guam is also warmer year-round, so cyclones can form anytime. Such storms are called typhoons west of the international dateline and hurricanes to the east.

Since the early 1990s, four typhoons with sustained winds of at least 150 mph (241 kph) have directly hit Guam, including Typhoon Mawar in May. By contrast, Hawaii has only had one such powerful storm, Iniki.

Guam has become more resilient after each storm, often by rebuilding with concrete capable of withstanding Category 4 and 5 typhoons.

Those homes are more expensive to build, and they trap heat and radiate warmth at night when people need to sleep—a problem that could worsen with global warming.

To cool their homes, many people on Guam paint their roofs white to deflect the sun or plant rooftop gardens, said Kyle Mandapat, a spokesperson for University of Guam Sea Grant. Mandapat has even heard of people installing rooftop sprinklers and using drains to catch the water to irrigate their gardens.

More concrete leads to more air conditioning, which can also be expensive. It's all a lot, but "people still see that as more of something they can deal with as opposed to the prospect of their house blowing away," Mandapat said.

Concrete homes are rare in Hawaii, but new homes are being built with pricey hurricane-resistant features.

Daryl Takamiya, a past president of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, said the hurricane-resistant windows his company is installing at a suburban Honolulu development add $25,000 to $30,000 to the cost of each new home. A hurricane-resistant garage door adds another $1,600. The homes are being built to withstand winds of up to 130 mph (209 kph).

Babauta bill aims to create captive insurance industry

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As part of efforts to diversify and improve the CNMI's economic condition, Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) has introduced a bill that seeks to create a new industry in the CNMI called captive insurance companies.

Captive insurance refers to a subsidiary corporation that us created to provide insurance solely to the parent company and its affiliates. In its simplest form, a captive insurance company is an insurance company that is a wholly owned subsidiary whose primary function is to insure all or part of the risks of its parent company.

Babauta said a captive insurance company represents an option for many organizations, from Fortune 500 companies to nonprofits, that want to take financial control and manage risks by underwriting their own insurance rather than paying premiums to third party insurers.

The senator said her legislation, Senate Bill 23-43, permits a novel captive insurance industry and captive insurance company to be licensed and domiciled in the CNMI and to attract insurance business as enumerated in the Commonwealth.

Babauta

In her statement issued over the weekend, Babauta said this new industry has proven successful in the continental United States and in the neighboring islands of Micronesia.

"This novel industry will expand and diversify the economy of the CNMI," she said.

While captive insurance firms have been around for 40-plus years, risk financing concept is relatively new in Asia, the senator said.

"This legislation, if marketed aggressively and properly, will help attract reputable multi-million-dollar investors to the CNMI and benefit the communities of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," Babauta said.

She said for so long, the sole act of bringing in investors, while significant, has been a band aid to temporarily mask the CNMI's economic problems.

What she envisions is to establish "meaningful solutions to end the perpetual and vicious cycle" of yearly deficits of the CNMI government, provide for industry value and grow the economy, she said.

As part of her meetings with industry experts, she has captured the interest of domestic and international companies that intend to leverage their companies to infuse millions into the CNMI's economy by establishing captive insurance companies, Babauta said.

Commonwealth Economic Development Authority executive director Manuel A. Sablan stated that by attracting captive insurance companies to set up operations in the CNMI, it will expand the Commonwealth's financial services sector beyond tourism and create additional job opportunities.

NMIS completes first edition of their summer program

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipanytibune.com
CORRESPONDENT

An audience of 200 parents and family members joined Northern Marianas International School staff for a student performance last Saturday at the Grandviro Resort in Garapan, capping the NMIS First Step Daycare Center's Culminating Activity Summer Program.

The production, which featured 50 summer program students from first to fifth grade¬s—the youngest being 5 years old—was a medley of song and dance performances, where students showcased not only their natural talents, but the ones they had picked up during the program, which was instrument playing.

"It's basically a showcase of the multiple talents of our students. The goal is really to give the children a space, an opportunity, to learn new things...to make new friends and learn some new skills," said NMIS-FSDC Childcare Services director Darlene J. Sobremisana.

Sobremisana noted that music teacher Gina Aguilar taught participating student's music lessons and that she personally was happy for the turnout of events, especially as this was their first time to have this kind of summer program.

Sobremisana noted that this experience will help her and their staff in planning next year's program.

Aside from music and dance lessons, the children dabbled in other activities as well during the summer, including classroom activities and educational field trips, but ultimately the children were preparing for the closing production that night. "I think we achieved our goal, to have our children learn new skills which is playing an instrument in our music class," said Sobremisana.

She also noted that a program like this was a great way to get students and the school involved in community events once more, especially after the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After the event, Sheila Sambile, a parent of two involved in the program, told Saipan Tribune, "I'm actually really excited and surprised with NMIS in this cultivating activity. It's a first since my kids started attending NMIS in 2013, so this is a really exciting event. I really like it." She said her children learned a lot during the program and enjoyed it just as much, and she personally is looking forward to having more events like this in the future.

Sobremisana also thanked all the supporters and partners who helped make the program possible, especially the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Childcare Development Fund.

House unanimously passes bail reform bill

The House of Representatives unanimously passed Friday a bill that aims to improve standards of bail proceedings in the CNMI by establishing bail procedures, authorizing denial of bail, imposing conditions of release, and protecting victims.

With all 18 House members present voting yes to House Bill 23-33, House Substitute 1, the bill now goes to the Senate for action.

Reps. Reps. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) and Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (R-Saipan) were absent, but excused from the session.

The bill proposes to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to describe judicial discretion to deny bail under certain circumstances.

Before the voting, Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan), who is the author of the legislation, said this has been a drawn-out bill that has received a lot of feedback from both the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Defender

After much discussion, she said, they finally found a balance that protects both the civil rights of the accused while protecting the community from repeat, violent offenders, said Flores, who chairs the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

Flores

Flores noted that, on that day's (Friday) newspaper, another individual who was on probation and a repeat violent offender, was again arrested for allegedly choking his wife.

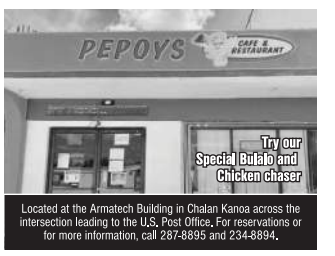
"This bill aims to allow the judicial court the freedom and their discretion to establish an appropriate bail, with the prosecution and the public defender conducting due diligence and [their] job to protect the public and…the defendant," Flores said.

The committee amended the bill to ensure that judges are given proper discretion to see to it that a person accused of a crime does not endanger another person.

Those who opposed the bill were Chief Public Defender Douglas W. Hartig, attorneys Charity Hodson, Bruce Berline, Richard T. Miller, and Robert T. Torres; and assistant public defender Molly Denard.

Those who supported the legislation were Attorney General Edward Manibusan, Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds, Chief Solicitor Robert Glass Jr., and Rachel Masga Sablan.

The legislation, known as the "The Keisha King Bail Reform Act," is named after King, who was killed on March 12, 2020 by her boyfriend, who was a convicted felon with a substantial criminal history, who shot her.



Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 287-8895 and 234-8894.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Friday, August 4, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (July 6, 2023 and July 28, 2023)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S):
1. Master Concession Status Report
2. Executive Director Position Description/Qualification
3. Deputy Director Position
4. Status Report on Supervisor Evaluation/Desk Audit
5. Executive Management Contracts

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)

V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-077

Opening Date: Friday, July 21, 2023
Closing Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	**Purchasing Technician**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Procurement & Supply**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$22,865.00 to $30,867.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Four (4)**

The incumbent will be under the general supervision as assigned by the Executive Director. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Procurement & Supply Division.

Duties:
- Purchasing records maintenance; purchase order processing; preparing voucher reports, performing data entry; processing quotations; and assisting with vendor relationship management.
- Receives purchase requisition vouchers for materials, parts and/or services and reviews vouchers for complete information and authorization.
- Determines and contacts vendors by phone or sends requests for quotations to vendors via email or fax; monitors due dates for quotations; reviews quotations upon receipt; awards small purchase bids based on lowest cost, lead time, availability, requirements, vendor support and payment terms.
- Processes and distributes purchase orders and related correspondence; enters and updates system records; prepares justification documentation for vendor selection and bid awards; organizes and maintains files and records.
- Monitors and follows up on purchase orders and payment schedules; works with accounts payable on prepayment requirements.
- Creates and monitors ticklers to follows up on project status.
- Monitors and follows up on contractors' performance evaluations from project managers.
- Collects information from respective project managers and files and creates summary reports.
- Coordinates and attends meetings with Bid/Proposal Committees as assigned.
- Researches and provides findings for contract disputes and protests.
- Prepares forms for review and signatures.
- Coordinates pick-up and delivery of materials, parts and/or services with internal and external customers.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four (4) years of experience related to purchasing. Proficiency in the applications of Microsoft software – Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Record keeping methods; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Reviewing documents for completion and appropriate authorization; Contacting vendors to gather purchase information; Reviewing quotations for specific criteria and awarding bids for small purchases; Processing and distributing purchase orders and related documents; Updating and maintaining purchase data in system; Monitoring schedules and due dates; Organizing and maintaining files and records; Coordinating service deliveries; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

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Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Shinsho-Kai high priest is named Marianas tourism envoy

MVA

Seated from left, House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Saipan Mayor Ramon B. Camacho, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, former Marianas Visitors Authority managing director JM Guerrero, and other community members, government officials, and members of Shinsho-kai group of Japan attend a memorial service on July 22, 2023, at Banzai Cliff, Saipan. The annual service commemorates individuals, including Japanese citizens, who lost their lives in Saipan during World War II.

The high priest of Shinsho-kai, a Japanese group that has been making memorial pilgrimages to the Marianas since 1982, was named honorary Marianas tourism ambassador last July 22, 2023.

The conferment of the title to High Priest Kosho Nakanishi was made by managing director Christopher A. Concepcion of the Marianas Visitors Authority following the group's memorial service at Banzai Cliff, a significant World War II site for remembrance of those who lost their lives during the battle on Saipan.

"As a sign of our appreciation for High Priest Kosho Nakanishi and Shinsho-kai for their work in reaffirming the historical ties between Japan and the Marianas, as well as in deep gratitude for the message they convey promoting world peace, we are pleased to appoint Mr. Nakanishi as honorary Marianas tourism ambassador," said Concepcion. "We look forward to a continued strong relationship with Shinsho-kai members for years to come."

Nakanishi was presented with a plaque that thanked him for his "dedication, commitment and support of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' relationship with Japan." He has also received a U.S. Congress Certificate of Commendation and the Order of the Rising Sun Gold Rays with Rosette from the government of Japan. He replaced his grandmother, Terumi Hirata, as head of Shinsho-kai upon her passing in 2013. Hirata had also been named an honorary tourism ambassador for the Marianas in 2008 and was instrumental in the continuation of the group's semi-annual trips to Saipan. In 1988, the group also built the Heiwa—or peace—Kannon statue and ossuary at Banzai Cliff.

MVA

Shinsho-kai High Priest Kosho Nakanishi, left, is appointed Marianas tourism ambassador on July 22, 2023, by Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion at Banzai Cliff, Saipan, in the Marianas. Shinsho-kai has been making semi-annual memorial pilgrimages to Saipan since 1982 in memory of Japanese citizens who lost their lives on the island during World War II.

Many members of the Shinsho-kai group are direct descendants of Japanese soldiers and civilians who died during the war. Through the years, nearly 6,000 people have visited Saipan as part of the memorial group. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Shinsho-kai High Priest Kosho Nakanishi, left, is appointed Marianas tourism ambassador on July 22, 2023, by Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion at Banzai Cliff, Saipan, in the Marianas.

MAN

From page 1

ruling on his petition to disqualify all sitting Superior Court judges from hearing his case.

Abraczinskas, through Chief Public Defender Doug Hartig, says a stay in the proceedings is necessary because the defense is actively contesting the Superior Court's continued jurisdiction in the matter.

"The Supreme Court has set a briefing schedule on this issue, with the response from the Superior Court due by Aug. 21, and a reply response due by Aug. 28. As currently scheduled, this court would hear motions related to trial before the Supreme Court has even received all the briefings, let alone issued a ruling as to defendant's challenge regarding this court keeping jurisdiction on this case. It is therefore unreasonable to hold a pretrial conference before the briefings are due in the Supreme Court, and before the Supreme Court is afforded a reasonable amount of time to rule on this matter," states the motion.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, for his part, set a hearing for Abraczinskas' motion for stay of proceedings for Aug. 25, at 10am.

Previously, the defense filed its motion for stay of proceedings with the Supreme Court.

However, in a recent ruling, the Supreme Court denied Abraczinskas' motion, stating that he must first file the motion in the Superior Court.

"To grant a stay, Abraczinskas must show that moving first in the Superior Court would be impracticable; or state that, a motion having been made, the Superior Court denied the motion or failed to afford the relief requested and state any reasons given by the Superior Court for its action.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HIRE

From page 1

Force of the Department of Finance to put to use all qualified human resources to conduct its tax enforcement and collection activities.

Babauta stated in the resolution that using experienced former and retired tax enforcers and collectors will maximize tax collections because they can conduct tax enforcement and collections and train existing or new personnel at the same time.

In order to increase the anticipated revenues of the CNMI for fiscal year 2024, Palacios had proposed to establish a Tax Collection Task Force to aggressively collect taxes due from the past 10 years, in addition to a proposal to increase the Business Gross Revenue Tax. Palacios has also authorized an inter-governmental agency collaboration to conduct the enforcement of tax laws and collection of tax revenue.

Babauta said, however, that tax enforcement and collection require experienced and skilled personnel who understand tax laws and regulations.

Last July 14, Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita disclosed to the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee that Finance has $121.4 million in total outstanding collectibles from account receivables from the past 10 years, including $30 million in employee quarterly withholdings that were not remitted by employers. Norita said the Tax Collection Task Force has set an initial target of collecting on these outstanding receivables within 180 days.

Last Friday, the House of Representatives adopted a Senate joint resolution introduced by Senate president Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) that requests Palacios to task the Revenue and Taxation with collecting all Business Gross Revenue Tax owed the CNMI government that, according to Norita, has now reached $25.3 million in total outstanding collectibles.

MAÑAGAHA

From page 1

Tribune yesterday, the term of the concession started on July 1, 2023, and will end on June 30, 2033.

An option to extend an additional five years may be granted at DPL's discretion, based on Mariana Global's performance under its existing agreement.

David Sablan, the special advisor of DPL, signed the agreement on May 18, 2023. DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos recused herself from the matter. Attorney General Edward Manibusan approved the agreement as to form and legal capacity on May 19, 2023. Mariana Global chief executive officer YoungHee Yoon signed the agreement on May 18, 2023.

Known for its crystal-clear water and white sand, Managaha Island is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the CNMI.

Mariana Global responded to DPL's request for proposals to operate and maintain an exclusive recreational concession area containing 11,203 square meters on Managaha Island.

Regarding public benefit contribution, Mariana Global will provide an annual contribution of financial support in the amount of $100,000 to each of the Indigenous Affairs Office and Carolinian Affairs Office for the promotion of traditional and cultural activities.

Mariana Global shall provide an additional contribution of financial support in the amount of not less than $10,000 to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs ($5,000) and Chamorro-Carolinian Language Commission ($5,000) for similar purposes.

Mariana Global will provide an annual contribution of $5,000 toward educational scholarship for eligible Northern Marianas descent students through a scholarship program.

The concessionaire shall reserve 20% of its seating capacity for CNMI residents on regularly scheduled daily round trips from Saipan to and from Managaha, free of charge, on a 24-hour reservation basis.

However, residents may not be prohibited from free transportation for failure to obtain advance reservation if space is available.

Under the agreement, Mariana Global Inc. shall not impose a fee or prohibit the general public from entering the main pavilions in the exclusive concession area for the purpose of using the picnic tables, restrooms, and shower rooms.

Concessionaire shall have the right to limit access by the public to those areas in the exclusive concession area where safety is a concern.

Concessionaire shall post "No Entry" signs in such areas where the public is prohibited from entering or gaining access to, such as concessionaire's office, generator room, reverse osmosis plant, storage facilities, etc.

Mariana Global shall not prohibit the general public from using any beach on Managaha.

The agreement requires Mariana Global to deposit $4 million in an account or accounts in concessionaire's name in a CNMI bank or banks within 15 days of the effective date of the agreement.

The agreement also requires Marianas Global to provide an enforceable commitment in the form of a letter of credit or other documentation for an additional $4 million in an account or accounts in the concessionaire's name in a CNMI bank or banks, to be deposited by not later than Dec. 31, 2023.

Marianas Global shall provide security services on patrol on the island on a 24-hour basis for visitors to experience a high level of security and to safeguard the property belonging to the DPL and the concessionaire against theft and vandalism.

The concessionaire shall also provide, among many other things, lifeguards on the island.

The DPL shall charge a landing and user fee on all tourists arriving on Managaha. The landing and user fee shall be at least $10 per tourist landing on the island.

Tasi Tours, which has managed concession services on Managaha for over 20 years, did not submit a proposal.

U-Top (Saipan) Inc. also responded to DPL's request for proposals.

More NMC nursing grads successfully pass NCLEX-RN

Northern Marianas College nursing graduates Crystal Delos Reyes, Pearl Lauritzen, and Claudilyn Lacbayo have joined the long list of NMC students who have passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN.

Nursing graduates must pass the NCLEX-RN to be able to practice nursing. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are capable of applying entry level nursing practices correctly.

"We are proud of NMC nursing graduates Crystal, Pearl, and Claudilyn for passing such a rigorous exam," said NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D. "I wish the best of luck on their future endeavors as healthcare professionals."

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan likewise congratulated the three on their achievements.

"I'd like to congratulate my former students for their remarkable achievement in passing the NCLEX-RN," Aldan said. "I have no doubt that they will succeed in their nursing careers."

Delos Reyes, a nursing graduate from the class of 2022, developed a passion for nursing in knowing that she is able to make a difference in people's lives through this career.

"Seeing them recover, or even receiving a simple gesture of a smile or thank you from them and their families knowing I was given full trust in their care gives me the drive to persevere as a nurse," Delos Reyes said.

Delos Reyes expresses her gratitude toward the support of her mom for pushing her to never give up, and to her dad, who has already passed away, for being her source of strength. She also thanks her instructors and classmates for their continued guidance.

Delos Reyes recalls her experience in studying for the NCLEX. "The NMC Nursing Program's nursing core courses, integrated Kaplan online resources and NCLEX-RN review sessions greatly helped me prepare for the exam," Delos Reyes said.

Delos Reyes balanced time for studying in the mornings and evenings as her schedule would permit, and states that self-discipline is important.

She encourages current and future nursing students, "Everyone's study routine is different, therefore creating a study routine that is realistic and works best for you is essential. Remember your 'Why's' and use that as a motivation to keep going. You're one step closer to becoming a nurse. Have confidence, trust, and believe in yourself. Others did it, you can too!"

Lacbayo | Delos Reyes | Lauritzen

Delos Reyes is currently working as a Registered Nurse in the Hemodialysis Unit at CHCC.

Lauritzen, a 2023 nursing graduate, expresses an innate desire to make positive impacts on people's lives, thus being the reason why she decided to pursue nursing. She explains, "The ability to care for and help others during their most vulnerable moments is what truly drives me in this profession."

Lauritzen describes how her successful passage of the NCLEX was due to the support of her professors, peers, and family, and the education and training of the NMC Nursing Program preparing her for the exam.

"The curriculum was rigorous, and the faculty members were highly knowledgeable and dedicated. The practical experiences gained through clinical rotations and I-Human Patients By Kaplan were invaluable in developing my clinical judgment and critical thinking abilities", she said.

Lauritzen recommends NMC students to prioritize a consistent study schedule as a means of establishing a solid foundation in their time at the nursing program, and highlights the importance of maintaining a positive mindset and believing in yourself.

Lauritzen is currently in the process of applying as a Registered Nurse at CHCC.

Lacbayo, a classmate of Lauritzen in NMC's 2023 nursing graduating class, pursued her nursing degree with a motivation for caring for the well-being of others, as well as her own.

"I wanted to pursue nursing because I genuinely enjoy taking care of people and I also wanted to be able to take care of myself and my family," Lacbayo said.

Along with the preparation provided by NMC, Lacbayo emphasized the impact that time management, determination, and organization had on her successful passage of the NCLEX as she was simultaneously working full time as a Certified Nursing Assistant.

"Also the fact that I had so much support from my family and my coworkers really helped me while I was studying for the NCLEX," she added.

Lacbayo underscored the valuable input she got from the Kaplan sessions and the guidance of her instructors. "Dr. Annie and Mr. Sinj's classes also helped highlight important things that I needed to know on the NCLEX. I am very thankful for all of my instructors at NMC."

From her personal experience in studying for the NCLEX, Lacbayo advises other nursing students to know what works for them and maintain a kind and positive attitude toward themselves.

"You can't know everything, so don't overwhelm yourself by trying to know everything," Lacbayo said. "Don't force yourself to study when you aren't mentally ready. Even passively listening to lectures while you clean or jog is more than enough."

Lacbayo is currently working as a CNA at CHCC, and is in the process of transitioning from a CNA to a RN.

For more information about NMC's nursing program, email Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6744. ***(NMC)***

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. supports and participates in National Immunization Awareness Month. CHCC continues to encourage the community to stay up-to-date with vaccinations as it is one of Public Health's effective tools in protecting people from severe illness and death from over a dozen of preventable diseases such as the human papillomavirus, influenza (flu), pneumonia, and COVID-19, as well as eradicating diseases in the United States such as measles, polio, and varicella (chickenpox).

Vaccines help protect you, your friends, your family, and the community. Everyone is encouraged to stay up-to-date with their vaccinations by talking with your health care provider to know what vaccines are recommended for you. Timely vaccination ensures you get the maximum protection against vaccine preventable diseases. Parents and people 18 years and older can view and print immunization records, including COVID-19 vaccination online. Call our program at (670)236-8745 to update their contact information before accessing the portal https://www.chcc.health/immunization.php

As children enter a new school year, make sure their vaccinations are on the top of the back-to-school checklist. Aside from routine vaccinations, flu season is also right around the corner and annual influenza (flu) vaccines will be available in October. Updated COVID-19 vaccines against circulating variants will also be available in the fall.

CHCC offers vaccine services for eligible children and adults through the following:

- CHCC Immunization Clinic at the lower level of the hospital
- CHCC Outpatient Clinics (Children's Clinic, Family Care Clinic, and Women's Clinic)
- Tinian Health Center
- Rota Health Center
- CHCC Mobile Clinic and Outreach Events

Vaccines are also available through our Vaccines for Children/COVID-19 Partner Clinics in the CNMI (Medical Associates of the Pacific, Marianas Medical Center, Kagman Isla Community Health, Southern Isla Community Health, and Tinian Isla Community Health). Contact these clinics for more information.

The Immunization Program provides routine vaccinations to eligible individuals (Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, or underinsured) at no cost through the Vaccines for Children program ages 0-18 years old and the Section 317 program ages 19+ years old. For more information or if you are insured, contact the CHCC Immunization Program for more information.

In this National Immunization Awareness Month, we thank our providers and community members for doing their part in protecting one another from outbreaks of diseases. For more information about vaccinations, contact the CHCC Immunization Program at (670) 236-8745. ***(CHCC)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: August 02, 2023 CLOSING DATE: August 17, 2023 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2023-014	Human Resources (HR) Manager/Executive Assistant	$40,000.00 - $45,000.00 per annum- UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications at the NMHC Central Office Reception in Garapan, Saipan or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23 – 093
Opening Date: Friday, July 21, 2023
Closing Date: Thursday, August 03, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Wastewater Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Wastewater Division.

Duties:
- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Monitor and perform preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes, and lift stations.
- Assist in taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments.
- Cleans, maintains, repairs and paints submersible pumps.
- Lifts, inspects and replace submersible pumps.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspecting and troubleshooting principles; Preventive maintenance principles; Inventory control principles.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Mayor's office hosts KSKK youth group for one week visit

Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho hosted last week 12 students and one chaperone from the KSKK International Youth Exchange Association Group from Japan who were on a week's visit to Saipan. The students stayed with host families and took part in various activities and events with an emphasis on education and cultural exchange.

The students visited several historical sites on island such as Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, the CNMI Museum, as well the Last Command Post.

Cultural exchange was a major theme of the program so the students paid a visit to the *Man'amko* Center where they performed for and interacted with the local *man'amko*, introducing them to Japanese culture. 500 Sails CNMI also hosted the students at their boathouse in Lower Base where they demonstrated the canoe-making process. They also explained the history behind the canoes and the meaning of each vessel. At the Joeten Kiyu Public Library, the students were given a tour of the facility by library staff who also engaged the students in a variety of creative activities. In addition, JKPL demonstrated our local way of making tempura and apipi.

Aside from learning about the islands, the children also took time to enjoy the recreational amenities of Saipan like the Saipan World Resort Wave Jungle.

On their last day, the students and their host families were treated to a farewell dinner hosted by the Saipan Mayor's Office where they had the chance to sample local delicacies like barbecues, red rice, chicken kelaguen, and other dishes.

Camacho and the 19th CNMI Youth Congress the handed out certificates of appreciation to each of the students. "This is my first time to host students from Japan and I am filled with so much joy. These group of students showed eagerness, friendship, and a willingness to learn our cultures. In addition, I would like to thank the host families for welcoming these students into your homes and sharing our way of life through our cultures," said Camacho.

Members of the 19th Youth Congress also encouraged the children to return anytime and encourage their family and friends to visit Saipan.

Camacho wants to see more of these exchange programs, with even more groups participating. The mayor believes these types of programs are beneficial in establishing close ties with neighboring countries.

The students were very grateful for the opportunity and each of them individually gave their thanks and gave some good words. Nao Saito, 21, who was students' chaperone on this trip, said, "We

will never forget this wonderful experience. I love Saipan!" ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the KSKK International Youth Exchange Association Group from Japan visit the Bird Island Lookout.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KSKK International Youth Exchange Association Group students perform for the *man'amko* at the *Man'amko* Center.

Mandatory written notice for business closure

The CNMI Department of Labor is reminding businesses that a written notice must be submitted to the Office of the Secretary at 1356 Mednilla St. on Capitol Hill at least 60 days prior to the commencement of a reduction-in-force or closure of business.

Written notice must also be given to each affected employee at least 30 days in advance, pursuant to 3CMC § 4937 and NMIAC § 80-20.1-240.

The department's Employment Rules and Regulations can be accessed from the website, marinanaslabor.netto learn more about this matter. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-088

Opening Date: Friday, July 21, 2023
Closing Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	**Engineering Technician**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Division-Transmission & Distribution**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00 to $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Provides technical support and assistance related to project management, safety, quality control and assurance.
- Performs field investigations and inspections.
- Performs field or easement verifications.
- Ensures adherence with plans, specifications and contractual compliance. Submits deficiencies for review and correction.
- Gathers data through observation and by reviewing relevant resources such as construction plans, blue prints, specifications, maps, technical drawings, property records, and/or GPS data.
- Enters, updates and verifies data in systems.
- Prepares and maintains reports, notices, drawings, graphs, charts, correspondence, cost estimates and related engineering documents in accordance with standards.
- Plans and prioritizes schedules and routes for field inspections.
- Researches existing project sites and explores potential construction sites. Monitors rights of way and easements.
- Monitors and reviews equipment and supplies inventory. Provides notification of resources or maintenance needs.
- Provides support and assistance with special engineering studies.
- May be required to be on call outside of normal working hours.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education & Experience: High School Diploma, GED, or ABE Program AS and two (2) years of journey level experience in drafting, office and field engineering, or surveying support work.
Proficiency in the applications of Microsoft software – Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth State and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Basic engineering and construction terminology, methods, practices, and techniques; Surveying methods and techniques; Mathematical concepts; Applicable equipment, controls and systems of assigned area of responsibility; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, rules, regulations and standards; Reading and interpreting plans, specifications, maps and related technical documentation; Performing engineering surveys, mapping and locating; Performing inspections and identifying issues in assigned area of responsibility; Operating and maintaining equipment in assigned area of responsibility; Performing mathematical calculations and estimating resources and costs; Researching, troubleshooting and problem solving; Preparing technical reports, maps and related documents used in assigned area of responsibility; Applying safe work practices; Planning and prioritizing activities and routes; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday to Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

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CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

FROM GUAM TO ORIGINAL A-BOMB TEST SITE

US Senate votes to expand radiation-exposure compensation

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—The U.S. Senate has endorsed a major expansion of a compensation program for people sickened by exposure to radiation during nuclear weapons testing and the mining of uranium during the Cold War, with a vote Thursday on a massive defense spending bill.

Advancing on a 86-11 Senate vote, the provisions would extend health care coverage and compensation to so-called downwinders exposed to radiation during weapons testing to several new regions stretching from Guam to the New Mexico site where the world's first atomic bomb was tested in 1945.

The Senate-backed plan also would extend compensation to more former uranium industry workers. The proposed changes to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act are not yet included in a House-approved defense bill, amid negotiations toward final legislation.

The hit summer film "Oppenheimer" about the top-secret Manhattan Project and the dawn of the nuclear age during World War II has brought new attention to a decades-long efforts to extend compensation for families who were exposed to fallout and still grapple with related illness.

"We're elated with the vote today. We're extremely hopeful," said Mary Martinez White, who recounted that her parents and several siblings were ravaged by cancer after the family's exposure to nuclear fallout at a farm in Carrizozo, New Mexico, about 35 miles (55 kilometers) for the Trinity Site test.

She blames her family's suffering on decisions at the outset of the Cold War—and applauded efforts to make amends through federal compensation by lawmakers, including Democratic Sen. Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico and Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri.

"I have faith that people who are alive today will right those choices, and quickly, especially when so much is being asked of New Mexico in terms of storage" of radioactive waste and nuclear weapons production, she said.

Advocates also have been trying for years to bring awareness to the lingering effects of radiation exposure on the Navajo Nation, where millions of tons of uranium ore were extracted over decades to support U.S. nuclear activities.

"The Navajo Nation has borne the brunt of America's nuclear program, the cost of which can be measured in human lives, environmental devastation, and communities that are still suffering," President Buu Nygren of the Navajo Nation said Thursday in a statement. "We will not stand by and allow this legacy to be forgotten or dismissed."

The Senate bill would expand eligibility to more former uranium mining, processing and transportation workers who participated after 1971, the current cutoff date for eligibility.

Since the compensation program began in 1992, more than 54,000 claims have been filed and about $2.6 billion has been awarded for approved claims in Nevada, Utah and Arizona. Coverage would be expanded to New Mexico, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana and previously excluded areas of Nevada, Utah and Arizona.

Earlier this month, Hawley promised to help people with cancer and other diseases connected to nuclear contamination in the St. Louis, Missouri, region. He cited reports by The Associated Press, The Missouri Independent and the nonprofit newsroom MuckRock that detailed nonchalance and indifference to the risks nuclear waste posed dating back to the 1950s.

St. Louis was part of the national campaign to build a nuclear bomb, with uranium processing that produced harmful waste.

NMC, PSS expand education workforce with Teacher Academy

NMC
The Teacher Academy Program had its completion ceremony last Friday, July 28, 2023.

As part of the Northern Marianas College's efforts to bolster the workforce and provide quality educators for the local community, NMC's Community Development Institute and School of Education, along with the CNMI Public School System's Career and Technical Education Program have helped pave the way for numerous high school students looking to become teachers and counselors through its ongoing Teacher Academy Program.

Over the course of the five weeks, the students participated in the Teacher Summer Academy Program, the prerequisite to the Teacher Academy Program set to begin this fall semester. During the summer program, they received rigorous core education academic classes with industry-related, project-based learning that focuses on career awareness, exploration, preparation and application. Students were able to expand their knowledge on the fundamentals of teaching and counseling, including special, early childhood and elementary education, and rehabilitation and human services.

The students who participated in the program were Miracle Aldan, Chris Amaro, Keya Das, Danielle Formalejo, Mefi Lorech-Lazaro, Nicole Llaga, Ria Rengiil, Keoni Santos, Keth Soriano, and Hong Zhang. They were paired with student mentors from NMC: Danielle Pineda, Dhalian Salas, Ye Lee Cha, Michael Dasco, Brent Espineda, Joselito Gomez, Amy Soliman, and Jerilynn Bluu Haruo.

"I saw this program as an opportunity to gain a clear understanding of the field of education and gain insights into my possible future career," said Teacher Academy participant and Marianas High School student Keth Soriano. "I thank NMC and PSS for allowing us to participate in the Teacher Academy Program, which inspired us to pursue our interests, experience hands-on learning environments, show us the importance of education, and by giving us this opportunity to make a positive impact."

"I hope the community sees how important Teacher Academy is for us as much as it is for everyone else, and that other students also have this opportunity to make a difference within the field of education," Soriano added.

NMC School of Education director Roland Merar said the college has always been at the forefront of empowering the next generation of educators in the Marianas.

"With the Teacher Academy, we aim to foster a community of dedicated educators who will help shape and inspire young minds," Merar said. "I am confident that these students will follow through in their academic journey to become teachers and counselors, and they will soon help elevate the standards of education."

PSS Career and Technical education director Dr. Jessica Taylor is thankful for the partnership between the college and PSS.

"NMC and the Public School System have always collaborated well when it comes to helping PSS students prepare for their future careers," Taylor said. "I am grateful for our joint effort, and I wish the best of luck for these students as they continue their studies in being educators."

In his remarks at the program's completion ceremony on Friday, July 28, 2023, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada praised both educational institution's strong partnership, and, in particular, for initiating programs that help build local capacity.

"To our students, your dedication to learning and your openness to the knowledge and experience during this program demonstrates the potential you carry with you," Ada said.

The Teacher Academy Program is funded by the PSS CTE Program. The PSS-CTE Career Pathways Program, including the Teacher Academy Program, received funding support when the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was enacted.

The ARP 2021 allows for all states and school districts in the nation to "identify and expand career pathways, such as integrated programs and services intended to develop students' core academic, technical, and employability skills; provide them with continuous education and training; and place them in high-demand, high-opportunity jobs."

It is also part of the U.S. Department of Education's "raise the bar initiative" to support career pathways and is aimed at increasing and expanding access to high-quality training programs, such as NMC-PSS Teacher Academy Program, to help young Americans pursue jobs in today's competitive and in-demand job market and be prepared for future careers. ***(NMC)***

Bipartisan bill seeks to put insular areas advisors within fed agencies

WASHINGTON, D.C.—House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and congressional representatives for the U.S. territories—Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP), Rep. Jim Moylan (R-Guam), Rep. Jenniffer González Colón (R-Puerto Rico), and Rep. Stacey E. Plaskett (D-USVI)—announced yesterday the introduction of H.R. 5001, the bipartisan "Special Advisors for Insular Areas Act," which would establish a special advisor for insular areas in each Executive Branch department.

"Our relationship with each of the U.S. territories and Freely Associated States is unique and has needs that differ across the federal agencies," said Grijalva. "This legislation will help ensure that each executive department has the expertise it needs to understand those needs and make good on our responsibility to support economic and social development in the insular areas. I want to thank the delegates for their invaluable support on this bipartisan legislation and look forward to working with them to move it to the House floor quickly."

"The unique circumstances of the Marianas and other insular areas are too easily overlooked when federal agencies set national policies. The Special Advisors for Insular Areas Act addresses that problem," said Sablan. "Creating positions within each agency specifically responsible for the insular areas should lead to more community input in policy formulation and better coordination and communication as policies and programs are implemented."

"I'd like to thank my colleague, Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva, for introducing the Special Advisors for Insular Areas bill" said Moylan. "I am proud to co-sponsor this piece of legislation, which ensures our island communities' unique needs are adequately addressed."

"The U.S. territories have unique challenges, one of them being the lack of voting representation in Congress. This sometimes leads to unequal treatment under federal programs," said Colón. "That is why I am supporting the Special Advisors for Insular Areas Act, which would create an office in each department of the federal government to oversee matters impacting the U.S. territories within their jurisdiction. This would be a good step to address the territories' specific challenges and unique needs of our constituents."

"There are a complexity of issues facing the Insular Areas, so I am pleased to join my colleagues in co-sponsoring this legislation to appoint Special Advisors for Insular Areas in each executive department," said Plaskett. "My colleagues and I understand that territorial leaders have long expressed the need for department focal points to better coordinate on policy and program implementation and communication. This timely legislation will provide an avenue for the special advisors to address major policy matters in a comprehensive fashion and provide better clarity of agency roles and responsibilities and improve policy implementation."

Background

The U.S. government has a responsibility to foster the economic and social development of the Insular areas, including the U.S. territories—American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—and the Freely Associated States—Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

The Executive Branch departments of the U.S. government each have differing priorities, mandates, and operational structures. For the insular areas, this can mean that certain federal policies and programs are implemented and communicated differently, causing confusion and inconsistency. Establishing a Special Advisor for Insular Areas in each department will help improve the coordination, direction, and appropriateness of federal policies to better fulfill the U.S. government's responsibilities to the territories and FAS. ***(PR)***

GCC's fall semester registration ongoing

There is still time to register for the upcoming fall semester at Guam Community College. In-person registration is currently on-going in Building 2000: Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm and on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023, from 8am to 12pm. The last day to register for the fall semester is Friday, Aug. 11, 2023. While the last day to register for adult education courses is Monday, Aug. 14, 2023, classes also start on Aug. 16, 2023.

Services on Saturday will include:

- Admissions & Registration
- Student Support
- Health Center
- Cashier
- Financial Aid
- Academic Advisement

Those interested in registering for the fall semester should bring:

- Valid photo identification card
- High School transcripts
- Shot record
- Tax Year 2021 documents (for financial aid)

Students may also register online at GuamCC.edu/Apply. The first day of fall 2023 semester is Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023. ***(GCC)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Can Taylor Swift fans save public transit? Maybe

All the doomsday talk about a public transit death spiral? Shake it off. Because fans going to Taylor Swift's concerts are fueling a city-by-city transit boom that points the way to reviving slumping ridership by improving service for leisure travelers and non-9-to-5 commuters.

Cities across the country have seen ridership surge from "Swifties" choosing to take transit to the star's sold-out Eras Tour. In Atlanta, nearly 140,000 people took transit to see Swift perform over three nights—that's triple the normal weekend ridership. In Chicago, the concerts generated 43,000 bus and train trips, and the system had the highest weekly ridership in three years.

And when Swift comes to SoFi Stadium in Inglewood for six shows starting Aug. 3, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will add service and extend hours to accommodate some of the estimated 60,000 fans expected per performance.

Big-city transit agencies have traditionally designed service for 9-to-5 work commuters. Travelers outside those peak times, including people working night or weekend shifts, picking up kids from school, going to a midday doctor's appointment, or visiting friends on a Saturday or Sunday, had longer—sometimes much longer—wait times than rush-hour riders.

The pandemic completely upended the business model of most public transit agencies. The rise of remote work, decline in ridership, increase in public safety concerns and falling revenue has hastened fears of the collapse of public transit, when major systems end up cutting service, shedding more riders and losing public confidence.

But many transit agencies see growth opportunities. In Los Angeles, Metro's weekend ridership on buses and rail lines has rebounded faster than weekday travel. Weekend travel was near pre-pandemic levels in June, thanks to big weekend events for Pride Month, CicLAvia in South L.A and the opening of the Regional Connector, which drew 100,000 people on opening day.

Metro recognizes there is a big market for off-peak and weekend travels, said Conan Cheung, chief operations officer. As the agency restores service cut during the pandemic, it's reducing the traditional wait-time disparities during peak and non-peak travel, reducing frequency in peak travel time and increasing frequency for evening and weekend riders.

Metrolink, the six-county Southern California commuter rail network, is still well below its pre-pandemic weekday ridership, but its weekend service has bounced back. The agency is working with tourism agencies to promote Metrolink as an option for weekend outing and attracting leisure riders with special service, including running trains to last weekend's X Games at the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

Of course, a few concerts and special events alone won't save public transit. Riders won't return if the service isn't easy to use, fast and safe. But big events present an opportunity to showcase the individual and collective benefits of buses and trains, and that's important because getting people out of cars is essential to reduce emissions and fight climate change.

Metro is right to meet the Swifties with plenty of transit service, and keep it up. Beyoncé comes to town in September.

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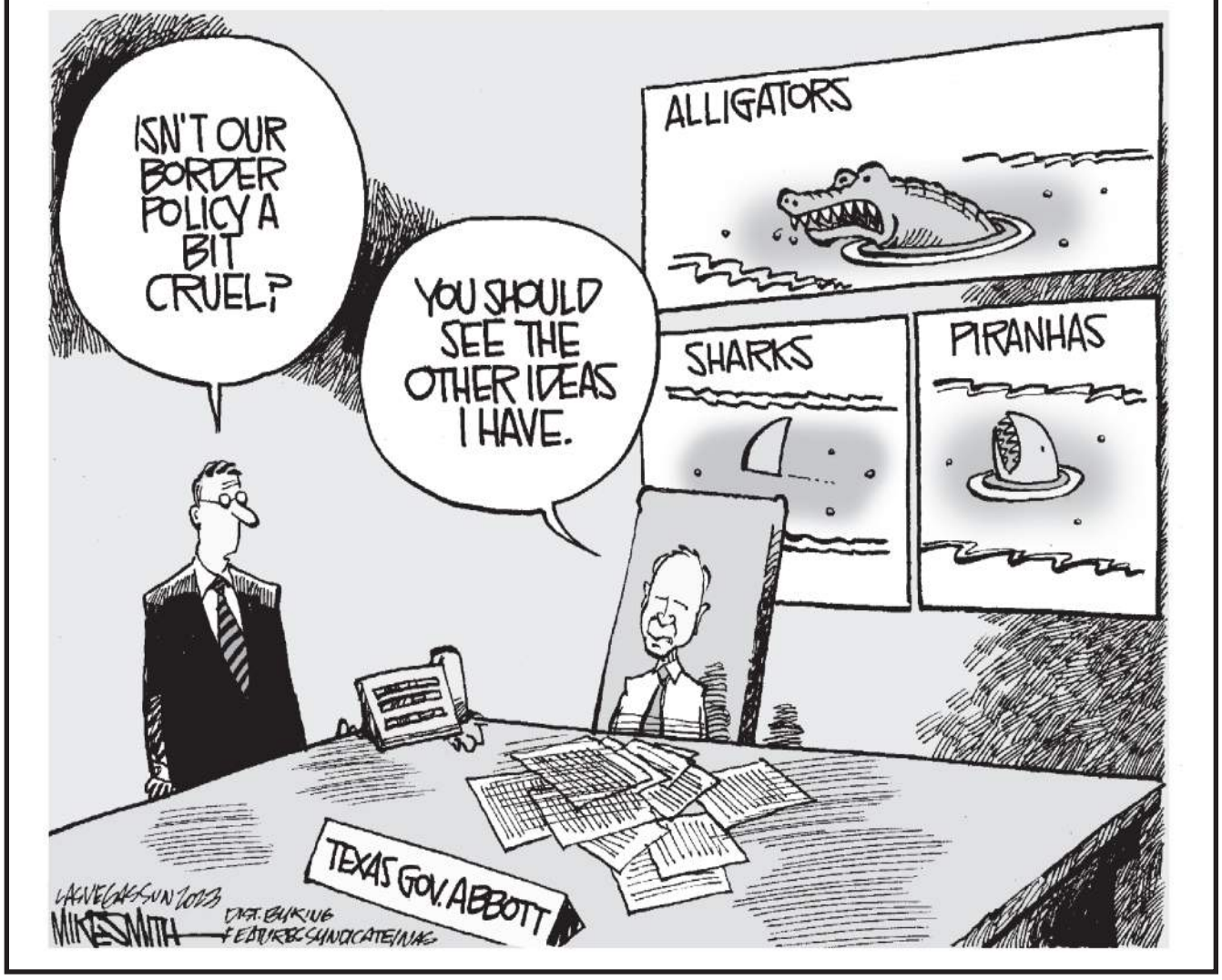

Does it really matter who gets into Harvard?

By ALLISON SCHRAGER
Bloomberg Opinion

Too many Americans—and too many American economists in particular—have an unhealthy obsession with the 1%: how much money they make, how much wealth they have, how they got there, how to join their ranks, and so on.

Rising economic inequality is a real problem, and there are understandable reasons for this fixation. But the U.S. would be better off focusing on more important challenges, such as how to increase productivity or improve the economic prospects of the bottom 50%.

The latest manifestation of the inequality obsession is the debate over the admissions policies of a handful of elite schools. Last week a new research paper addressed the issue of the 1% directly: It estimates that while children of lower-income families have slightly better odds of getting into elite schools (assuming they have similar scores) than upper middle-class students, children of the 1% have a much better chance than everyone else. This is an issue that is elite almost by definition, since most colleges and universities don't have highly selective admissions.

There are other issues where the debate is too centered on the competition between the upper middle class and the rich. Consider the discussion of urban housing, which is increasingly focused on why desirable areas of many cities are so expensive, or the attention paid to student loan debt rather than other forms of debt that keep more vulnerable members of society down.

The discourse inevitably affects policy, resulting in student debt relief, an expansion of the child income tax credit to higher earners, industrial policy for highly skilled jobs, even a regulatory crackdown on artificial intelligence. True, some of these programs also benefit lower-income people, but if that were the goal they could be better targeted.

It is also true that the difference between the upper middle class and super rich is more of an economic issue than it used to be, because more people are in the upper middle class. One of the most striking trends in inequality has been the hollowing out of the middle class since the 1970s.

According to a study from the Pew Research Center, the middle class shrank 11 percentage points between 1971 and 2014, from 61% to 50%. Most of the decline was due to Americans joining the upper middle class, defined as earning at least three times the median income. The other striking trend was the growth in income of the top 5%—especially the top 0.01%. The difference in earnings between someone in the top 10% and someone in the top 1% is much larger. So maybe making it to the top 10% no longer feels like enough for many people, and they are obsessed with improving their status (and becoming more unhappy).

Another possible explanation for the obsession with the 1%, offered by one of the economists who wrote the paper on admissions, is that they have extraordinary influence and power in U.S. society. This justifies increased attention and scrutiny.

But it is important to note that the American system is not completely rigged. The average salary of an Ivy League graduate and someone from a good state school is not very different. Most of the CEOs from top Fortune 500 companies went to high-quality state schools such as Texas A&M. Yes, being born in the top 1% certainly increases the odds of going to an elite school, and going to an elite school increases the odds of earning a 1% salary. But this is in large part because so much job recruitment takes place at top schools, where students also have higher expectations of what they are entitled to achieve.

But the data also suggest a simple solution: Top graduate schools and employers should expand their recruiting, because clearly there are talented students everywhere.

To be clear, I'm not against making it easier for people to become part of the 1%; I wouldn't mind joining myself. But the competition between the very rich and the very very rich is not the most pressing issue of our time. America's resources are not unlimited, and we should focus on problems that not only reflect our values but also promote general prosperity.

More Americans may be upper middle class than ever before, but there is still a significant population falling further behind. If the goal is broader prosperity and mobility, then America should worry less about admissions to elite schools—and more about K-12 education, job retraining, and making the labor market more fluid for people who didn't happen to go to the right school. Better to focus on the question of how the bottom 30% can make it into the top 70% than how the top 10% can join the top 1%.

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Why do I hoard more books than I could possibly read? An investigation

By CHRIS VOGNAR
Los Angeles Times

Chris Vognar is a freelance culture writer. He was the 2009 Nieman arts and culture fellow at Harvard University.

Publisher's Weekly recently reported that book sales for the first half of the year are down once again, continuing a trend that has accelerated since the pandemic.

As usual, I seem to be out of step. After a few years of joining the Kindle cult, I am back to my old bibliophile ways of buying more books than I will possibly have time to read. I do this not just out of compulsion, but aspiration (and, more practically, for research on various writing assignments). When I go to a great bookstore, which, to me, is like a cathedral, I feel the need to tithe. Some might call me a book hoarder.

I once read that buying books represents the illusion of buying the time needed to read them. That sounds about right. But these personal inclinations usually stem from a personal story. Here is mine. It takes a few turns.

I grew up around books, which is one of the few good things I can say about how I grew up. I remember opening my parents' dusty hardcover of James Joyce's "Finnegan's Wake" and thinking: How do people read this? (OK, so I still think that about "Finnegan's Wake.") I remember my mom's rows of paperback Dorothy Sayers mystery novels. Even then, I could sense the magic contained within two covers, and I carried that sense of magic into adulthood.

In a former life, in another city, I had hundreds of books in the house. They lined shelves, and they sat in unruly stacks. Then, suddenly, that old life ended. My life partner, Kate, got sick and died. I lost my job, and, to some extent, my mind. I was sort of exiled to another city, Houston, with most of my old Dallas life, including the books, left in storage, where they remain. I started packing lightly and adhering to minimalism. Hence the Kindle, which I had sworn off for years as a not tangible enough reading experience. I fell into a rather spartan existence.

But something happened a few months back. I'm not exactly sure what it was, but I can trace the steps. I made my maiden voyage to Ikea, a story in itself, and I bought a bookcase, which had a strange domesticating effect on what I still think of as my temporary lodging in a friend's townhouse. I figured I needed to fill that bookcase. And I slowly returned to the pleasure of holding a book, reading a book, and, yes, buying a book.

Since my work is to write about books, I have some form of excuse. But there's more to it than that. I remembered how much I love books as physical objects: their smell, their feel, the sensory reading experience they offer. I like getting them in the mail. I am interminably curious, and unrealistically ambitious. It's a dangerous combination. I'll be watching an Elia Kazan movie and suddenly I'll remember that Richard Schickel wrote an acclaimed biography of the great director, whose legacy was tarnished when he named names during the Hollywood blacklist. I don't own that biography. One thing leads to another. Again and again.

The books get in the way sometimes. They pile up on the arm of the chair where I sit to watch TV. They take up the space on my ottoman where my feet are supposed to go. The stacks of galleys I receive as a book reviewer have taken over a whole table, organized by publication month.

On the table, at the moment, is the Penguin Classics edition of Dickens' "Bleak House," which I've always wanted to read. There's Haynes Johnson's '90s postmortem "Divided We Fall," because I've been tinkering with the idea of writing a book about the decade. There's Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin's "American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer," because the movie is coming out soon and I might write something about it. There's Mel Watkins' "On the Real Side: A History of African American Comedy From Slavery to Chris Rock," because it's a great overview of one of my favorite subjects.

In buying books, I'm feeding the delusion that I will get to them all. Because, from my cockeyed perspective, it's the noble thing to do. And perhaps it takes me back to better times. Yes, book sales are down. But I'm once again doing my part to right the ship.

Vacation checklist: Choose kindness

By JENNIFER O'CONNOR
PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

School is out, and the open road beckons. Summer vacations are what memories are made of, and with so many choices, it's hard to narrow down the right destination. But whether you decide to stay close to home or travel to far-flung destinations, please don't spend any time or money in places where animals are forced to entertain the public.

You'll spot the billboards on every highway—appeals to pull over to see every novelty from live alligators to dancing bears. It may be tempting to take a break and check things out, but tourists who buy tickets are unwittingly keeping animals in servitude until the day they die.

Just about anybody—whether or not they have any qualifications—can apply for and receive a U.S. Department of Agriculture animal exhibitor's license. Roadside zoos are typically privately owned and on precarious financial footing. At these facilities, naturally far-ranging animals like lions, bears, tigers and primates are usually housed in cramped cages consisting of chain-link fencing and concrete floors. Their comfort is an afterthought.

Since most of these places operate with little staff or money, cages are often poorly maintained and filled with urine and feces. The grounds are typically littered with garbage and never-ending "improvement projects." The animals might not be provided with any kind of enrichment beyond an old tire or a dead tree branch to help them pass the seemingly interminable days.

Many calculating operators have taken to adding the word "sanctuary" or "rescue" to their names, knowing that kind people are drawn in by such claims. But far too many of these outfits are nothing more than breeders, dealers and exhibitors exploiting the public's goodwill and generosity.

These kinds of scam operations aren't only here in the U.S.; they're everywhere. Throughout Asia, tourists find appeals to visit elephant "sanctuaries" for up-close encounters. But no legitimate elephant sanctuary allows hands-on interactions with the public, and that includes letting tourists ride the elephants or give them baths. When not being forced to labor, the elephants at these sham sanctuaries are chained, and they always live in fear of being beaten with a bullhook—a heavy baton with a sharp steel hook on the end. TRAFFIC, a leading international wildlife-trade monitoring network, released an exposé showing how tourism actually drives the suffering of elephants, including when they're captured in their natural forest homes.

"Swim with dolphins" programs are another common tourist draw. In nature, dolphins swim vast distances every day in extended family pods. They are keenly intelligent, have complex social ties and use echolocation to navigate and judge distances. In captivity, even the largest tank feels like a prison to them. Captive dolphins often die far short of their expected lifespan.

Animals are suffering even at well-known, popular tourist destinations, including the Grand Canyon; Santorini, Greece; the pyramids of Giza in Egypt; and Petra in Jordan, where horses, donkeys and camels are forced to haul sightseers around on their backs or in carriages. They are worked to exhaustion, often in the scorching heat, with no access to water. If they collapse, they're beaten until they get back up.

Return home from your vacation with photos and happy anecdotes, not memories of despairing dolphins, stressed bears or battered horses. Their mistreatment should be condemned by all compassionate people. Every traveler must pledge not to spend a dime on businesses that exploit animals.

Jennifer O'Connor is a senior writer for the PETA Foundation, 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510; www.PETA.org.

Deadly heat shouldn't be a curiosity. It's a disaster and a tragedy

By TONY BARBOZA
Los Angeles Times

Visitors are making perilous trips to California's Death Valley as temperatures climb to within a few degrees of the highest on record. And there's no doubt it takes a certain breed to trek into some of the worst heat humanity has known.

But as this miserable heat persists, with July poised to be the hottest month ever recorded on Earth, I found myself thinking about why some people are fixated on experiencing these temperature extremes, even if vicariously through a news story or a photo next to a practically melting thermometer.

It's understandable that the thrill-seekers among us would be drawn to places like Death Valley National Park, where temperatures in recent days have reached 129 degrees during the day, and remained as high as 120 degrees after midnight, to feel the furnace-like blast of hot air firsthand and experience how it tests the limits of human survival.

But these are life-threatening conditions, as was sadly demonstrated at the park Tuesday with the death of a 71-year-old hiker. And to me, such extreme temperatures should be seen less as a curiosity than a disaster and a tragedy.

Among the weather-related hazards made worse by climate change, extreme heat is the No. 1 killer, responsible for an estimated 3,900 deaths in California from 2010 to 2019. The heat that has smothered the Southwest and other parts of the U.S. for more than two weeks has inflicted a widespread toll, especially on the elderly, outdoor workers and those without air conditioning.

Climbing temperatures in places like Death Valley are not some kind of natural wonder for a bucket list, like seeing a total solar eclipse or climbing Mt. Everest. They are part of a spiraling, unnatural human disaster caused by our own ongoing pollution of the atmosphere that sustains life on this planet.

California has long been a land of extremes, swinging from severe drought and destructive wildfires to floods and landslides. The lowest point in North America, Death Valley's Badwater Basin, is just 135 miles from the highest point in the lower 48 states, Mt. Whitney. We have the world's biggest, tallest and oldest trees. But climate change is amplifying California's boom-bust cycle so much that our past range of experience grows less relevant by the year.

This summer—even with extraordinary heat—is likely to be one of the coolest of the rest of your life. As climate scientist Michael Mann put it earlier this summer, "it's a 'new abnormal' and it is now playing out in real time—the impacts of climate change are upon us in the form of unprecedented, dangerous extreme weather events."

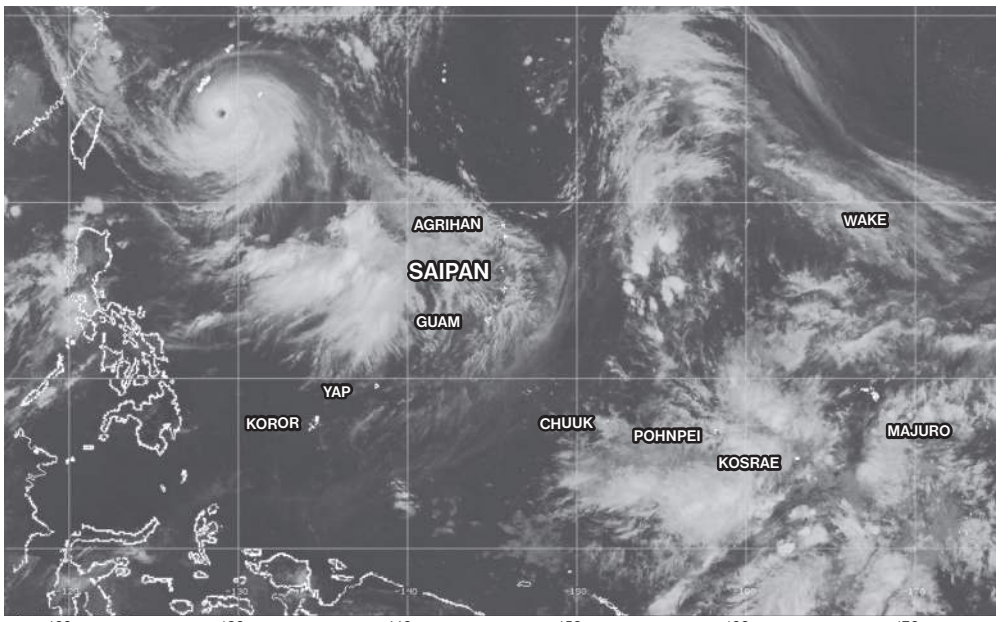
It won't begin to change until we stop burning fossil fuels. Until then, we'll have no choice but to get used to heat that is at once frighteningly extreme and no longer so remarkable.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 79°	84° 79°	86° 81°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:18 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows a Tropical Upper Tropospheric Trough (TUTT) just east of the Marianas Waters. This is causing isolated showers and a stray thunderstorm every once in a while. The Ipan buoy reveals east swell of 2 to 3 feet while computer wave model guidance calculates a west swell of 3 to 4 feet, leading to combined seas of 4 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Isolated Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Isolated Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:06 AM	7:28 PM
Thursday	-	7:12 AM	8:17 PM
Friday	-	8:15 AM	9:02 PM
Saturday	-	9:14 AM	9:44 PM
Sunday	-	10:11 AM	10:24 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 54°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	99° / 77°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Showers	87° / 75°
London	Showers	63° / 52°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 82°
Melbourne	Sunny	64° / 54°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
New York	Sunny	87° / 72°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Paris	Rain	68° / 52°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	91° / 66°
Salem	Thunderstorms	82° / 68°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	74° / 56°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	82° / 73°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	81° / 71°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:48 AM	Low Tide	1.46
6:46 AM	High Tide	2.26
2:14 PM	Low Tide	-0.46
9:18 PM	High Tide	2.15

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:55AM	8:45AM	1, 5
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	4, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

100 attend launch of Chico de Marianas

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Around 100 VIPs attended the launch of the Chico de Marianas at Kensington Hotel Saipan's OHAS Cafe last Friday and all went home mesmerized with the fascinating taste of the CNMI's first homegrown chocolate souvenir.

Guy Pudney, Marianas Pacific Distributors resident manager, said he will surely take advantage of the chocolate's buy-1, take-1 promotion that evening because it's just that good.

"All are delicious and my favorite is the *donni sali.* Man, it's so delicious with just a very slight hint of heat and the tourists are going to love this. This is something to take home, even our visitors from the States and Guam when they come here I have a feeling they will be looking for this."

Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) said there's something with the Chico de Marianas that will make anyone come back for more.

"All chocolates are good but if you add a little oomph to it, it makes a lot of difference. I liked the lemon the most because it's sourness complements its sweetness. Sweet and sour, I love it!"

MARK RABAGO

Jolene Sablan, left, poses with husband Alex Sablan, right, and Carlene Sablan , second from right, as they are served hors d'oeuvre and samples of Chico de Marianas during the local souvenir chocolates launching last Friday at the OHAS Cafe of Kensington Hotel Saipan.

MARK RABAGO

E-Land CEO Brian Shin addresses the around 100 VIP guests that attended the launching. To his left is Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Gloria Cavanagh.

MARK RABAGO

Kensington chef Sung Won "Sam" Hong describes what Choco de Marianas is all about while chef Haena Kim and Gloria Cavanagh look on.

The daughter-and-mother pair of Teeon and Velma Palacios, meanwhile, have different favorites.

"Lime is my favorite because of the dark chocolate. The *pika* is not for me. I think it is just too spicy for me. It was good but I'm not really into spicy chocolates," said the former.

"I like the spicy, then the lime, then the mango, and then the potato," added the latter.

For Jolene Sablan, the heat of the *doni sali* was just right.

"My favorite is the *pika* because I love *pika* and it just has a nice balance of chocolate and spice. It just had the spicy finish that I like."

Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Gloria Cavanagh, meanwhile, couldn't really make up her mind as to what flavor of chocolate is her favorite.

"It's a tie between lime and *pika*. I think with the lime it's because of the dark chocolate. It's also not overly sweet and it had a tang with it. With the *pika* it just has a very unique taste with the spicy kick at the end."

As already mentioned, Chico de Marianas comes in four unique flavors—*ma'aksom* (citrus sour lime), *duci* (tropical sweet mango), *pika* (spicy hot pepper), and *ppwil* (creamy sweet potato).

The Chico de Marianas' creators—Kensington chefs Sung Won "Sam" Hong and Haena Kim—also revealed that there are actually steps to indulge on the desert as they suggest to try out *ma'aksom* first, then *duci* second, *pika* third, before capping it off with *ppwil* to fully experience their rich flavors.

Speaking at the start of the event, E-Land CEO Brian Shin said the main motivation for Chico De Marianas, which means "Kiss of Marianas in Chamorro," is for the CNMI to finally have its own chocolate souvenir conceptualized, made, and ingredients sourced from the islands.

"The CNMI is a multi-island destination and I was always wondering, in fact, a lot of our team members always wondered, what is the special souvenir that our tours can take away when they're visiting the CNMI that represents us? There are a lot of great products out there that you can find from a lot of retail stores like I Love Saipan, DFS Saipan, and ARC. However, there's nothing really representative that's made in the CNMI so what we did is we came up with a product that uses ingredients from the Marianas," he said.

Shin added that it actually took Kensington Hotel nine months to come up with the name, three months to procure the molding from Turkey, and even specially ordered the premium chocolate ingredients from Belgium.

Chico de Marianas is available 10am-5pm everyday at OHAS Café in Kensington Hotel Saipan. It costs only $19.90 per box and $70 for four boxes. It's also available at DFS Galleria Saipan.

For more information about Chico de Marianas or to reserve orders, call (670) 322-3311.

Musk threatens to sue researchers who documented rise in hateful tweets

WASHINGTON (AP)—X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, has threatened to sue a group of independent researchers whose research documented an increase in hate speech on the site since it was purchased last year by Elon Musk.

An attorney representing the social media site wrote to the Center for Countering Digital Hate on July 20 threatening legal action over the nonprofit's research into hate speech and content moderation. The letter alleged that CCDH's research publications seem intended "to harm Twitter's business by driving advertisers away from the platform with incendiary claims."

Musk is a self-professed free speech absolutist who has welcomed back white supremacists and election deniers to the platform, which he renamed X earlier this month. But the billionaire has at times proven sensitive about critical speech directed at him or his companies.

The center is a nonprofit with offices in the U.S. and United Kingdom. It regularly publishes reports on hate speech, extremism or harmful behavior on social media platforms like X, TikTok or Facebook.

The organization has published several reports critical of Musk's leadership, detailing an increase in anti-LGBTQ hate speech as well as climate misinformation since his purchase. The letter from X's attorney cited one specific report from June that found the platform failed to remove neo-Nazi and anti-LGBTQ content from verified users that violated the platform's rules.

In the letter, attorney Alex Spiro questioned the expertise of the researchers and accused the center of trying to harm X's reputation. The letter also suggested, without evidence, that the center received funds from some of X's competitors, even though the center has also published critical reports about TikTok, Facebook and other large platforms.

"CCDH intends to harm Twitter's business by driving advertisers away from the platform with incendiary claims," Spiro wrote, using the platform's former name.

China restricts civilian drone exports, citing Ukraine, concern about military use

BEIJING (AP)—China imposed restrictions Monday on exports of long-range civilian drones, citing Russia's war in Ukraine and concern that drones might be converted to military use.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government is friendly with Moscow but says it is neutral in the 17-month-old war. It has been stung by reports that both sides might be using Chinese-made drones for reconnaissance and possibly attacks.

Export controls will take effect Tuesday to prevent use of drones for "non-peaceful purposes," the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement. It said some drone exports still will be allowed.

China is a leading developer and exporter of drones. DJI Technology Co., one of the global industry's top competitors, announced in April 2022 it was pulling out of Russia and Ukraine to prevent its drones from being used in combat.

"The risk of some high specification and high-performance civilian unmanned aerial vehicles being converted to military use is constantly increasing," the Ministry of Commerce said.

Restrictions will apply to drones that can fly beyond the natural sight distance of operators or stay aloft more than 30 minutes, have attachments that can throw objects and weigh more than 7 kilograms (15½ pounds), according to the ministry.

"Since the crisis in Ukraine, some Chinese civilian drone companies have voluntarily suspended their operations in conflict areas," the Ministry of Commerce said. It accused the United States and Western media of spreading "false information" about Chinese drone exports.

The government on Friday defended its dealings with Russia as "normal economic and trade cooperation" after a U.S. intelligence report said Beijing possibly provided equipment used in Ukraine that might have military applications.

The report cited Russian customs data that showed Chinese state-owned military contractors supplied drones, navigation equipment, fighter jet parts and other goods.

The Biden administration has warned Beijing of unspecified consequences if it supports the Kremlin's war effort. Last week's report didn't say whether any of the trade cited might trigger U.S. retaliation.

Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin declared before the February 2022 invasion that their governments had a "no-limits" friendship. Beijing has blocked efforts to censure Moscow in the United Nations and has repeated Russian justifications for the attack.

China has "always opposed the use of civilian drones for military purposes," the Ministry of Commerce said. "The moderate expansion of drone control by China this time is an important measure to demonstrate the responsibility of a responsible major country."

Nation

Extremely hot summer is only halfway over

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

At about summer's halfway point, the record-breaking heat and weather extremes are both unprecedented and unsurprising, hellish yet boring in some ways, scientists say.

Killer heat. Deadly floods. Smoke from wildfires that chokes.

And there's no relief in sight.

Expect a hotter than normal August and September, American and European forecast centers predict.

"We are seeing unprecedented changes all over the world," said NASA climate scientist Gavin Schmidt. "The heat waves that we're seeing in the U.S. and in Europe, in China are demolishing records left, right and center. This is not a surprise."

Imperial College of London climate scientist Friederike Otto said examining what's causing heat waves is "boring" in a way since it keeps happening. Yet she added that it matters "because it shows again just how much climate change plays a role in what we are currently experiencing."

"This story, these impacts, are going to continue," Schmidt said. "We're going to be seeing this pretty much this year and into next year" with a natural El Nino warming of the Pacific adding to the overwhelming influence of human-caused climate change largely from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

AP

New York City is seen in a haze-filled sky, photographed from Staten Island Ferry, June 7, 2023, in New York.

Here's a rundown of the summer of Earth's discontent.

RECORD-SHATTERING HEAT

Globally, June this year was the hottest June on record—and scientists say July has been so hot that even before the month was over they could say it was the hottest month on record. But it's individual places where people live that the heat has stuck around and killed.

Phoenix, where the last day of June and each day of July has been at least 110 degrees (43 degrees Celsius), set records for the longest mega-heat streak and longest stretch when the temperatures didn't go below 90 degrees (32 degrees Celsius) at night.

El Paso, Texas, had 44 days of 100 degree (37 degree) heat. Schools closed in Nuevo Leon state in northern Mexico a month earlier than usual as temperatures reached 113 degrees (45 Celsius).

Farther east, Miami added humidity to high heat for 46 straight days of feels-like temperatures of 100 or more.

Beijing had its own record streak with at least 27 days of 95 degrees (35 Celsius) in July, after a three-day streak of at least 104 (40 Celsius) in June. And the country set it's all-time highest temperature on July 16 in remote Sanbao township with 126 degrees (52.2 Celsius).

Heat records fell all over southern Europe. Sardinia, Italy, hit 117 (47 Celsius). Palermo in Sicily broke a record that goes back to 1791 by a whopping 3.6 degrees (2 degrees Celsius). Temperatures hit 115 (46 Celsius) in Gytheio, Greece.

Spain reported nearly 1,000 excess deaths from the heat, mostly among the elderly, by mid July.

In Argentina, where it's mid-winter, temperatures were above 89.6 (32 Celsius) four straight days in June in the northern part of the county. One July night in Buenos Aires didn't get below the 70s (low 20s Celsius).

TOO MUCH RAIN

More than 10,000 people had to be evacuated in central Hunan province in China where heavy rainfall caused at least 70 houses to collapse. In Yichang, rain triggered a landslide that buried a construction site and killed at least one person.

Australia's Queensland outback got 13 times its normal monthly July rain in just one day.

Thousands of people were evacuated from Delhi in India as rains caused flash floods and landslides. Elsewhere in the country at least 100 people were killed by the downpours.

Brain fog, other long COVID symptoms focus of new studies

WASHINGTON (AP)—The National Institutes of Health is beginning a handful of studies to test possible treatments for long COVID, an anxiously awaited step in U.S. efforts against the mysterious condition that afflicts millions.

Monday's announcement from the NIH's $1.15 billion RECOVER project comes amid frustration from patients who've struggled for months or even years with sometimes-disabling health problems—with no proven treatments and only a smattering of rigorous studies to test potential ones.

"This is a year or two late and smaller in scope than one would hope but nevertheless it's a step in the right direction," said Dr. Ziyad Al-Aly of Washington University in St. Louis, who isn't involved with NIH's project but whose own research highlighted long COVID's toll. Getting answers is critical, he added, because "there's a lot of people out there exploiting patients' vulnerability" with unproven therapies.

Scientists don't yet know what causes long COVID, the catchall term for about 200 widely varying symptoms. Between 10% and 30% of people are estimated to have experienced some form of long COVID after recovering from a coronavirus infection, a risk that has dropped somewhat since early in the pandemic.

"If I get 10 people, I get 10 answers of what long COVID really is," U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said.

That's why so far the RECOVER initiative has tracked 24,000 patients in observational studies to help define the most common and burdensome symptoms—findings that now are shaping multipronged treatment trials. The first two will look at:

■ Whether taking up to 25 days of Pfizer's antiviral drug Paxlovid could ease long COVID, because of a theory that some live coronavirus, or its remnants, may hide in the body and trigger the disorder. Normally Paxlovid is used when people first get COVID-19 and for just five days.

■ Treatments for "brain fog" and other cognitive problems. They include Posit Science Corp.'s BrainHQ cognitive training program, another called PASC-Cognitive Recovery by New York City's Mount Sinai Health System, and a Soterix Medical device that electrically stimulates brain circuits.

Two additional studies will open in the coming months. One will test treatments for sleep problems. The other will target problems with the autonomic nervous system—which controls unconscious functions like breathing and heartbeat—including the disorder called POTS.

A more controversial study of exercise intolerance and fatigue also is planned, with NIH seeking input from some patient groups worried that exercise may do more harm than good for certain long COVID sufferers.

The trials are enrolling 300 to 900 adult participants for now but have the potential to grow. Unlike typical experiments that test one treatment at a time, these more flexible "platform studies" will let NIH add additional potential therapies on a rolling basis.

"We can rapidly pivot," Dr. Amy Patterson with the NIH explained. A failing treatment can be dropped without ending the entire trial and "if something promising comes on the horizon, we can plug it in."

Trump's campaign finances are strained as legal peril mounts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump's political operation entered the second half of the year in a strained financial position with its bank account drained by tens of millions of dollars that were directed toward defending the former president from mounting legal challenges as he seeks the White House again.

Trump took in over $53 million since the start of 2023, records show, a period in which his two criminal indictments in Florida and New York were turned into a rallying cry that made his fundraising soar. The Republican presidential front-runner burned through at least $42.8 million this year, however, much of it used to cover costs related to the mounting legal peril faced by Trump, his aides and other allies, leaving him with $31.8 million cash on hand.

New campaign finance disclosures made public ahead of Monday night's filing deadline showed Trump's network of political committees spent roughly $25 million on legal fees. But according to a person familiar with the situation who insisted on anonymity to discuss the matter, the number is considerably higher: $40 million this year alone.

It's a familiar position for Trump, carrying an echo of the 2020 presidential contest when his massive cash advantage over Joe Biden evaporated amid profligate spending by his campaign. Though Trump currently dominates the Republican primary field, a lack of cash could force his campaign to make difficult spending decisions as he braces for the possibility of two additional indictments, which could come as soon as this week in Georgia and Washington and are related to his efforts to overturn the outcome of the 2020 election.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Paul S. Ryan, a longtime campaign finance attorney in Washington, referring to the sum Trump's operation spent on legal fees this year. "There's no legal issue. It's really just a question for his donors: Do they want to be funding lawyers?"

Trump is not alone in his money struggles. His top rival, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis raised over $20 million after launching his much-hyped candidacy in May. But DeSantis, who trails Trump in a distant second place, hemorrhaged cash in his first six weeks as a candidate, burning through $8 million in a spending spree that included more than 100 paid staffers, a large security detail and luxury travel.

Never Back Down, a super PAC supporting him that can raise and spend unlimited amounts, reported raising $130 million in a filings submitted before Monday's midnight deadline. But it also spent roughly one-quarter of that money, much of it going to cover operations, like voter turnout, that are typically paid for by a candidate's campaign, filings show.

The group was financed with $80 million left over from DeSantis' successful 2022 gubernatorial reelection campaign. Most of the other cash was raised from several dozen corporations and donors, who gave over $100,000, including Robert Bigelow, a Las Vegas-based businessman, who gave Never Back Down $20 million, records show.

DeSantis has pledged to reset and trim expenses, laying off more than a third of his staff. Trump does not have the same luxury.

To help offset his growing legal bills, Trump's allies are launching a new fundraising effort. The Patriot Legal Defense Fund, as it is called, is intended to defray costs for those "defending against legal actions arising from an individual or group's participation in the political process," according to a filing made last month with the IRS. The group will be run by Trump campaign senior advisers Susie Wiles and Michael Glassner.

Asia

IS says it was responsible for bombing that killed 54

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—An Afghan branch of the Islamic State group on Monday claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in Pakistan that killed at least 54 people at a pro-Taliban party's election rally, in one of the region's worst attacks in recent years.

Islamic State in Khorasan Province made the claim in a statement posted on its Amaq website. It said the attacker detonated an explosive vest, and that the bombing Sunday in the northwestern town of Bajur was part of the group's continuing war against forms of democracy it deems to be against Islam.

Hours earlier, hundreds of mourners in Bajur carried caskets draped in colorful cloths to burial sites following the previous day's attack at the election rally for the Jamiat Ulema Islam party. Officials said the bombing killed 54 people, including at least five children, and wounded nearly 200.

The attack appeared to reflect divisions between Islamist groups, which have a strong presence in the district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that borders Afghanistan. The Jamiat Ulema Islam party has ties to the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban.

At least 1,000 people were crowded into a tent near a market for the rally ahead of fall elections, according to police.

"People were chanting God is Great as the leaders arrived," said Khan Mohammad, a local resident who said he was standing outside the tent, "and that was when I heard the deafening sound of the bomb."

Mohammad said he heard people crying for help, and minutes later ambulances arrived and began taking the wounded away.

Police had suggested in their initial investigation that Islamic State in Khorasan Province was a suspect. The group is based in neighboring Afghanistan's Nangarhar province and is a rival of the Afghan Taliban and al-Qaida.

Pakistan security analyst Mahmood Shah also previously had said that breakaway factions of the Pakistani Taliban could be possible suspects, though the group distanced itself from the attack.

The Pakistani military spent years fighting the Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, in Bajur before declaring the district clear of militants in 2016. But the Jamiat Ulema Islam party, headed by hardline cleric and politician Fazlur Rehman, has remained a potent political force.

On Monday, police recorded statements from some of the wounded at a hospital in Khar, the district's principal town.

Female relatives and children wailed and beat their chests at family homes Monday as the dead were taken for funerals, following local customs. Hundreds of men followed the caskets to mosques and open areas for special funeral prayers and then into the hills for burial.

As condolences continued to pour in from across the country, dozens of people who had lesser injuries were discharged from hospital, while the critically wounded were taken to the provincial capital of Peshawar by army helicopters. The death toll continued to rise as some critically wounded people died in hospital, physician Gul Naseeb said.

Gul Akbar, the father of an 11-year-old boy who was wounded in the attack, told The Associated Press that his entire family was in a state of shock after hearing about the bombing Sunday. He said he first went to the scene of the attack, and later found his son Taslim Khan being treated in a hospital in Khar.

"What would I have done if he had also been martyred? Five children died in this barbaric attack, and we want to know what our children did wrong," he said.

Rehman's party is preparing to contest elections, which are expected in October or November. Abdul Rasheed, one of the party's senior leaders, said the bombing was aimed at weakening the party but that "such attacks cannot deter our resolve."

Rehman's party is part of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's coalition government, which came to power in April 2022 by ousting former Prime Minister Imran Khan through a no-confidence vote in the legislature.

ASIAN BRIEFS

S. Korean dog meat farmers push back vs. growing moves to outlaw industry

PYEONGTAEK, South Korea (AP)—The dogs bark and stare as Kim Jong-kil approaches the rusty cages housing the large, short-haired animals he sells for their meat. Kim opens a door and pets one dog's neck and chest. Kim says he's proud of the dog meat farm that has supported his family for 27 years, but is upset over growing attempts by politicians and activists to outlaw the business, which he is turning over to his children. "It's more than just feeling bad. I absolutely oppose these moves, and we'll mobilize all our means to resist it," Kim, 57, said in an interview at his farm in Pyeongtaek city, just south of Seoul. Dog meat consumption is a centuries-old practice on the Korean Peninsula and has long been viewed as a source of stamina on hot summer days. It's neither explicitly banned nor legalized in South Korea, but more and more people want it prohibited. There's increasing public awareness of animal rights and worries about South Korea's international image. The anti-dog meat campaign recently received a big boost when the country's first lady expressed her support for a ban and two lawmakers submitted bills to eliminate the dog meat trade.

14 workers killed in collapse of crane being used to build bridge in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A huge crane collapsed at a highway construction site in western India, killing at least 14 workers, officials said Monday. Television footage showed the collapsed crane on the ground as rescue workers looked for survivors near the site in Thane, a city just outside Mumbai. At least three people who were injured were rushed to a hospital. Press Trust of India reported the crane is used to install precast box girders while building highway and high-speed rail bridges. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences in a message on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. "My deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are injured," his office said in a post.

World

Russian missiles kill at least 6 in Zelenskyy's hometown

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian ballistic missiles slammed into an apartment complex and a university building in President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown Monday, killing six people and wounding 75 others as the blasts trapped residents beneath rubble, Ukrainian officials said.

AP

Emergency services work at a scene after a missile hit an apartment building in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, Monday, July 31, 2023.

One of the two missiles that hit the central city of Kryvyi Rih destroyed part of an apartment building between the fourth and ninth floors, Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said. Video showed black smoke billowing from corner units and burned out or damaged cars on a tree-lined street.

The dead included a 10-year-old girl and her mother, according to Zelenskyy. More than 350 people were involved in the rescue operation, he said in a Telegram post.

The morning attack also destroyed part of a four-story university building.

The strike on Zelenskyy's hometown, which has been hit in the past, happened a day after the Ukrainian president seemed to warn of more attacks inside Russia.

"Gradually, the war is returning to the territory of Russia — to its symbolic centers and military bases, and this is an inevitable, natural and absolutely fair process," Zelenskyy said Sunday in his nightly video address.

It was not clear whether the missile strikes were in retaliation for his comments.

Ukrainian drones again targeted Moscow and its surroundings early Tuesday morning, the Russian military reported. Two of three launched were shot down outside Moscow, while one crashed into a skyscraper in the Moscow City business district, damaging the building's facade.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said the drone crashed into the same building that was damaged in a similar attack early Sunday, which contains offices of several government agencies. Sobyanin said the Tuesday attack didn't result in any casualties.

It wasn't clear why the same building was hit twice in a row. In both incidents, the Russian military said the drones that hit the skyscraper were jammed before collapsing. Ukrainian officials did not immediately comment on the attack.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian artillery strike on the partially occupied Donetsk province killed two people and wounded six others in the regional capital, according to Denis Pushilin, the Moscow-installed leader of the illegally annexed province.

A bus was also hit as Ukrainian forces shelled the city of Donetsk multiple times Monday, Pushilin said.

Elsewhere, in the Russian-held part of the Zaporizhzhia region, three people were killed and 15 were wounded in Ukrainian shelling that hit a store in the village of Basan, according to the Russia-backed acting regional governor, Yevgeny Balitsky.

Neither side's claims could be independently verified.

The ongoing Ukrainian counteroffensive, deploying weaponry supplied by Western allies and aimed at driving Russian forces out of occupied areas, intensified last week.

Israel's full high court to hear petitions against judiciary law

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's Supreme Court said Monday that a full panel of 15 justices would hear petitions in September against a contentious law that was passed last week by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government and which has spurred mass protests.

The law was one of a series of proposed changes to Israel's judiciary put forward by Netanyahu's government earlier this year that seek to curb the power of the Supreme Court. The judicial overhaul plan has been met with months of sustained mass protest against the legislation and drawn criticism from the White House.

Critics of the overhaul say that the package of laws would concentrate power in the hands of the ruling coalition and erode the system of checks and balances between branches of government. Proponents say the measures are necessary to limit the power of unelected judges who they say are overly activist.

Netanyahu and his allies passed a law last week that removes the high court's ability to annul government decisions considered "unreasonable." The "reasonableness standard" was implemented by the Supreme Court earlier this year to thwart the appointment of a Netanyahu ally as interior minister after he had recently pleaded guilty to tax offenses.

The court said the hearing concerning the law striking down the "reasonableness standard" would take place on Sept. 12 with a full bench of 15 justices. The Supreme Court typically hears cases with smaller panels of justices, but appears to have opted for a full complement of judges because of the highly delicate nature of the matter.

The Netanyahu administration's push to overhaul the judiciary has deeply divided an already highly polarized country and sparked the longest sustained protests in the country's history.

Netanyahu and his allies took office in December after the country's fifth election in under four years, most of them referendums on the longtime leader's fitness to serve while on trial for corruption.

Good Housekeeping

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS

A simple white bowl is filled with moss and succulents.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS

An oversized vessel conveys a modern, industrial vibe.

HANDOUT/TNS

An organic wood element serves as an alternative to florals.

Modern centerpiece ideas

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

There was once a time when a dining table centerpiece was traditional and fussy. These days, the trend is toward the more relaxed and what can function and appeal for everyday meals and entertaining.

Looking for centerpiece ideas? Here are some top Design Recipes tips.

DO'S

■ Do look for interesting bowls and vessels to display your decor.

■ Do look to create a grouping or vignette. A set of three items often works well.

■ Do transition your decor. Experiment with rotating your decor depending on the season or occasion.

■ Do consider reflective elements such as a mirrored element as a tray.

Try using real or dried fruits as decor elements. They not only add color, they're relatively inexpensive.

DON'TS

■ Don't use elements that are thematic or trendy.

■ Don't be afraid to display a minimalist look.

■ Don't overlook elements such as size and scale, especially when it comes to height.

■ Don't blend too many different colors and textures so as to not overwhelm.

■ Don't ignore the power of greenery and florals.

HANDOUT/TNS

A large, round vase filled with succulents creates a modern feel in a traditional space.

HANDOUT/TNS

A tall arrangement with a mix of artificial florals and greenery is placed on top of a decorative tray.

HANDOUT/TNS

A textured vessel helps create a rustic look.

HANDOUT/TNS

A vignette of orchids helps create an elegant and creative look.

Life & Style

Angus Cloud, breakout star of 'Euphoria,' is dead at 25

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angus Cloud, the actor who starred as the drug dealer Fezco "Fez" O'Neill on the HBO series "Euphoria," has died. He was 25.

Cloud's publicist, Cait Bailey, said Cloud died Monday at his family home in Oakland, California. No cause of death was given.

In a statement, Cloud's family said goodbye to "an artist, a friend, a brother and a son.

"Last week he buried his father and intensely struggled with this loss," the family said. "The only comfort we have is knowing Angus is now reunited with his dad, who was his best friend. Angus was open about his battle with mental health and we hope that his passing can be a reminder to others that they are not alone and should not fight this on their own in silence."

"We hope the world remembers him for his humor, laughter and love for everyone," his family added.

Cloud hadn't acted before he was cast in "Euphoria." He was walking down the street in New York when casting scout Eléonore Hendricks noticed him. Cloud was resistant at first, suspecting a scam. Then casting director Jennifer Venditti met with him and series creator Sam Levinson eventually made him a co-star in the series alongside Zendaya for its first two seasons.

To some, Cloud seemed so natural as Fez that they suspected he was identical to the character—a notion that Cloud pushed back against.

Cloud

"It does bother me when people are like, 'It must be so easy! You get to go in and be yourself.' I'm like, 'Why don't you go and do that?' It's not that simple," Cloud told Variety. "I brought a lot to the character. You can believe what you want. It ain't got nothing to do with me."

The part made Cloud the breakout star of one the buzziest shows in television. He had a supporting role in his first film, "The Line," a college drama starring Alex Wolff and John Malkovich that premiered earlier this year at the Tribeca Festival. Cloud was recently cast to co-star in "Scream 6." He's also made cameos in music videos for Juice WRLD, Becky G and Karol G.

The third season of "Euphoria" hasn't yet begun filming.

"There was no one quite like Angus," Levinson said in a statement. "He was too special, too talented and way too young to leave us so soon. He also struggled, like many of us, with addiction and depression. I hope he knew how many hearts he touched. I loved him. I always will. Rest in peace and God Bless his family."

HBO said in a statement that Cloud "was immensely talented and a beloved part of the HBO and 'Euphoria' family. We extend our deepest condolences to his friends and family during this difficult time."

Pee-wee Herman actor Paul Reubens dies from cancer at 70

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paul Reubens, the actor and comedian whose Pee-wee Herman character—an overgrown child with a tight gray suit and an unforgettable laugh—became a 1980s pop cultural phenomenon, has died at 70.

Reubens

Reubens, who's character delighted fans in the film "Pee-wee's Big Adventure" and on the TV series "Pee-wee's Playhouse," died Sunday night after a six-year struggle with cancer that he kept private, his publicist said in a statement.

"Please accept my apology for not going public with what I've been facing the last six years," Reubens said in a statement released Monday with the announcement of his death. "I have always felt a huge amount of love and respect from my friends, fans and supporters. I have loved you all so much and enjoyed making art for you."

Created for the stage, Pee-wee with his white chunky loafers and red bow tie would become a cultural constant in both adult and children's entertainment for much of the 1980s, though an indecent exposure arrest in 1991 would send the character into entertainment exile for years.

The staccato giggle that punctuated every sentence, catch phrases like "I know you are but what am I" and a tabletop dance to the Champs' song "Tequila" in a biker bar in "Pee-wee's Big Adventure" were often imitated by fans, to the joy of some and the annoyance of others.

'Barbie' continues box office bonanza, 'Oppenheimer' at No. 2

NEW YORK (AP)—A week later, the "Barbenheimer" boom has not abated.

Seven days after Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" and Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" conspired to set box office records, the two films held unusually strongly in theaters. "Barbie" took in a massive $93 million in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. "Oppenheimer" stayed in second with a robust $46.2 million. Sales for the two movies dipped 43% and 44%, respectably—well shy of the usual week-two drops.

"Barbenheimer" has proven to be not a one-weekend phenomenon but an ongoing box-office bonanza. The two movies combined have already surpassed $1 billion in worldwide ticket sales. Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore, call it "a touchstone moment for movies, moviegoers and movie theaters."

"Having two movies from rival studios linked in this way and both boosting each other's fortunes—both box-office wise and it terms of their profile—I don't know if there's a comp for this in the annals of box-office history," said Dergarabedian. "There's really no comparison for this."

Following its year-best $162 million opening, the pink-infused pop sensation of "Barbie" saw remarkably sustained business through the week and into the weekend. The film outpaced Nolan's "The Dark Knight" to have the best first 11 days in theaters of any Warner Bros. release ever.

"Barbie" has rapidly accumulated $351.4 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters, a rate that will soon make it the biggest box-office hit of the summer. Every day it's played, "Barbie" has made at least $20 million.

And the "Barbie" effect isn't just in North America. The film made $122.2 million internationally over the weekend. Its global tally has reached $775 million. It's the kind of business that astounds even veteran studio executives.

"That's a crazy number," said Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief for Warner Bros. "There's just a built-in audience that wants to be part of the zeitgeist of the moment. Wherever you go, people are wearing pink. Pink is taking over the world."

Amid the frenzy, "Barbie" is already attracting a lot of repeat moviegoers. Goldstein estimates that 12% of sales are people going back with friends or family to see it again.

For a movie industry that has been trying to regain its pre-pandemic footing—and that now finds itself largely shuttered due to actors and screenwriters strikes—the sensations of "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" have showed what's possible when everything lines up just right.

"Post-pandemic, there's no ceiling and there's no floor," Goldstein said. "The movies that miss really miss big time, and the movies that work really work big time."

Universal Pictures' "Oppenheimer," meanwhile, is performing more like a superhero movie than a three-hour film about scientists talking.

Nolan's drama starring Cillian Murphy as atomic bomb physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer has accrued $174.1 million domestically thus far. With an additional $72.4 million in international cinemas, "Oppenheimer" has already surpassed $400 million globally.

Showings in IMAX have typically been sold out. "Oppenheimer" has made $80 million worldwide on IMAX. The large-format exhibitor said Sunday that it will extend the film's run through Aug. 13.

- "Barbie," $93 million.
- "Opppenheimer," $46.2 million.
- "Haunted Mansion," $24.2 million.
- "Sound of Freedom," $12.4 million.
- "Mission: Impossible—Dead Reckoning Part One," $10.7 million.
- "Talk to Me," $10 million.
- "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," $4 million.
- "Elemental," $3.4 million.
- "Insidious: The Red Door," $3.2 million.
- "Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani," $1.6 million.

Man repeatedly disregards wife's specific complaint

DEAR ABBY: I'm an older woman. My husband and I have been married eight years but were together 15 years prior to our marriage. He is a wonderful, caring man in most ways. But from time to time, he snaps extremely unflattering photos of me, sends them to everyone we know and even orders enlargements made for me.

I have a mouth condition that makes smiling painful, so unless I know a picture is being taken, I look really old and grumpy. I have asked him PLEASE not to do this because it's humiliating when he sends them out to friends and family members. I think it's unkind and disrespectful and have told him so, yet he persists.

I'm to the point that this has become a deal-breaker in our marriage, and he knows it. He claims he loves me and is proud of me. And yes, we have been to counseling about our relationship in general because of the many times he has humiliated me in public. But he won't stop. How can I handle this going forward?

HUMILIATED AND HURTING

DEAR HUMILIATED: It appears your "wonderful, caring" husband has a mean streak. He's getting his kicks by embarrassing you. One way to handle it going forward would be to ignore him when he does it. It won't be easy, but when he realizes he can't get the desired reaction from you, he may do it less often. Another way to deal with it would be to discuss privately with a licensed therapist whether his behavior really has become a deal-breaker. The choice is yours.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend lives with one of his closest friends, "Bill." I know him well and stay at their apartment often. Over time we have grown pretty close. I listen to Bill talk about his hobbies and problems because his friends get tired of his rambling.

I'm afraid Bill has become too attached to me because of this, because he has started texting me every day, asks me to go places with him and fixates on me whenever I am over there. The last straw was when he called me in the middle of the night, crying about his ex-girlfriend.

In order to preserve his living situation and their friendship, my boyfriend doesn't want to confront Bill until he crosses a line. I believe he has already violated my boundaries. How do I stop this elephant in the room from growing?

UNSURE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR UNSURE: I agree that more than one boundary has been violated. Because your boyfriend is unwilling to draw the line, you will have to. Start by telling Bill that you don't want him calling in the middle of the night or as often as he does. Visit your boyfriend at his shared apartment less often. Take your time responding to Bill's daily texts, and refuse his invitations to go anywhere. It may take a while for him to get the message, so be prepared.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What do I do if my wife of 36 years wants to be laid to rest somewhere other than next to me in Hawaii?

WONDERING IN HAWAII

DEAR WONDERING: Hope that you outlive her.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

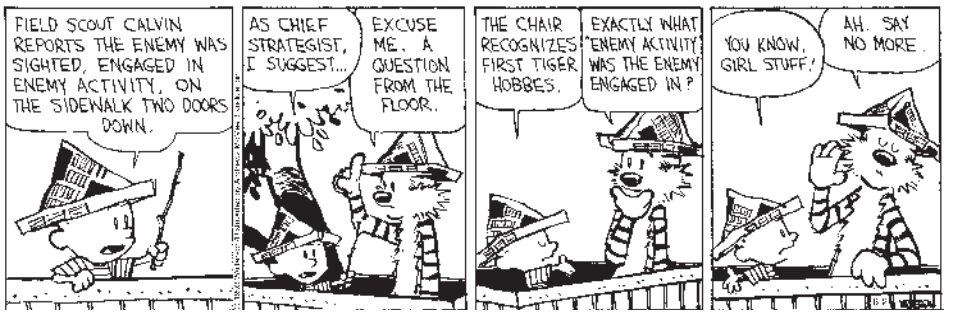
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

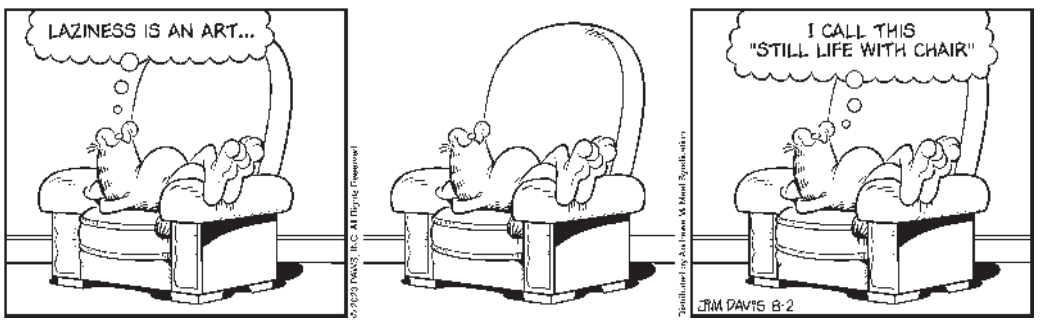
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


FIELD SCOUT CALVIN REPORTS THE ENEMY WAS SIGHTED, ENGAGED IN ENEMY ACTIVITY, ON THE SIDEWALK TWO DOORS DOWN.
AS CHIEF STRATEGIST, I SUGGEST...
EXCUSE ME. A QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR.
THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES FIRST TIGER HOBBES.
EXACTLY WHAT "ENEMY ACTIVITY" WAS THE ENEMY ENGAGED IN?
YOU KNOW, GIRL STUFF.
AH. SAY NO MORE.

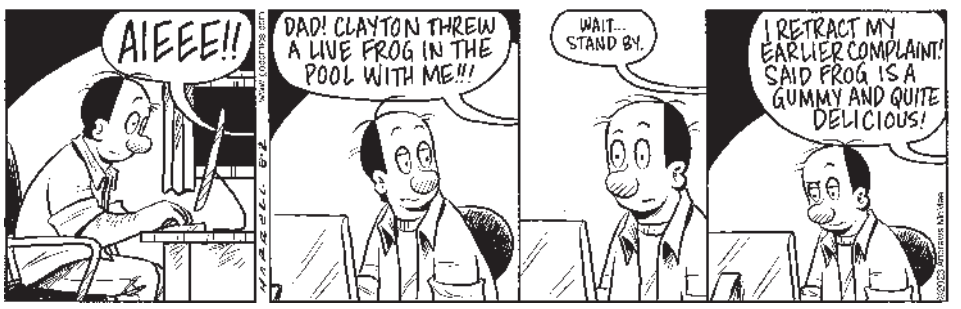
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


AIEEE!!
DAD! CLAYTON THREW A LIVE FROG IN THE POOL WITH ME!!
WAIT... STAND BY.
I RETRACT MY EARLIER COMPLAINT! SAID FROG IS A GUMMY AND QUITE DELICIOUS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'M STARVING. I HAVE HUNGER PANGS THAT FEEL LIKE I'M BEING STABBED IN THE STOMACH.
CHECK THE BOTTOM SHELF. THERE'S A LOT OF THE LEFTOVER SPAM CASSEROLE I MADE LAST NIGHT THAT YOU DIDN'T FINISH.
BUT, THEN AGAIN, WHAT KIND OF MAN AM I TO COMPLAIN ABOUT A LITTLE STABBING PAIN?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Painter Salvador
5 Arg. neighbor
8 Reed instrument
12 Black, in verse
13 Epoch
14 Word heard over a baby monitor
15 Store for readers
17 "A likely story!"
18 Midwest capital
19 Nymph pursuers
21 Mil. group
22 911 responders
23 Bar bill
26 Pot brew
28 Wyoming's — Range
31 Regrettably
33 Slump
35 Takeout order?
36 Walked nervously
38 Canine greeting
40 Green shade
41 Make mittens
43 Curved line
45 Home of St. Francis
47 Mal de mer
51 Casual shirt
52 Catch a wave
54 Evening in Paris
55 "— a Camera"
56 Fine cotton
57 Winds up
58 Altar in the sky
59 Luminary

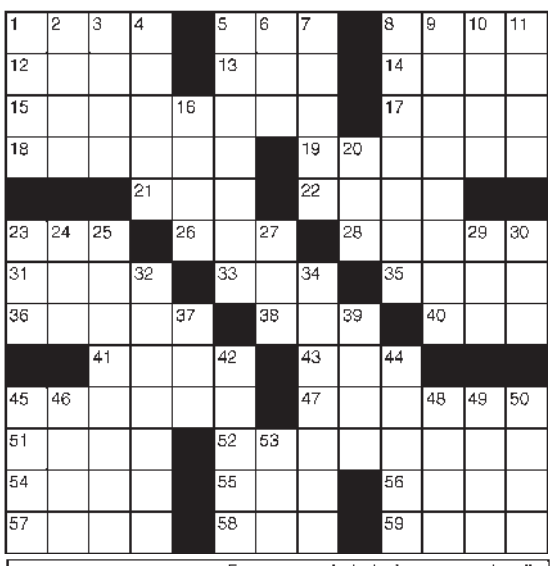
DOWN

1 Owed amount
2 Peek suffix
3 Roller coaster feature
4 Signed
5 Toes the line
6 Granada gold
7 Expire
8 Avoided
9 Wee bit of progress
10 Biblical grain measure
11 Vittles
16 "SNL" segment
20 Invoice fig.
23 Phone bug
24 — carte
25 Had a relapse
27 Bond rating
29 Yucatan "Bravo!"
30 Museum-funding org.
32 Grads-to-be
34 Baby-sitter, often
37 Insult, slangily
39 Unravel
42 Leg bone
44 Points
45 Church section
46 Anon
48 Legal action
49 Singer Franklin
50 Miles away
53 Galley item

Solution time: 23 mins.

W	A	R	M	■	T	A	C	■	L	A	M	A
A	L	S	O	■	W	E	T	■	I	W	O	N
L	I	V	E	W	I	R	E	■	V	L	A	D
L	A	P	■	E	C	O	■	Z	E	S	T	Y
■	■	■	L	E	E	■	V	I	M	■	■	■
I	E	P	I	D	■	M	I	N	U	I	E	S
A	V	I	V	■	B	A	A	■	S	A	R	A
R	A	C	F	C	A	R	■	A	I	D	F	S
■	■	■	A	R	M	■	C	O	C	■	■	■
H	E	L	L	O	■	D	I	N	■	T	H	O
A	H	A	B	■	L	I	V	E	C	H	A	T
L	U	L	U	■	U	N	I	■	R	E	N	O
E	D	A	M	■	G	E	L	■	Y	O	K	E

Yesterday's answer 8-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hallie Eisenberg, 31; Sam Worthington, 47; Kevin Smith, 53; Mary-Louise Parker, 59.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on what's important to you. Don't get lost in the chaos or believe everything you hear. Pay attention to detail, and follow the paper trail to ensure you know who and what you are dealing with emotionally, financially and legally. Leave nothing to chance, and you can navigate your way to victory. Look for consistency when dealing with others, and get promises in writing. Your numbers are 5, 13, 21, 29, 35, 46, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Venture down a path that motivates you to initiate positive changes. Don't settle for less than what you want. Handpick the people you want on your team and forge ahead with enthusiasm. Life is about the decisions you make. Make romance a priority. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Emotional situations will set you off and cost you time and money. Take a step back, consider matters and make your actions definitive. Mix business with pleasure, but be direct regarding your goals and expectations from others. Take control and offer incentives. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Make changes for the right reason. Refuse to let anyone talk you into something that doesn't benefit you directly. Pay attention to how you present yourself to others, and live up to your promises. Don't overspend unnecessarily. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Align yourself with people in the know. Let your charm and compliments motivate others to offer their help. What you accomplish will increase your profile and put you in a good position for advancement. Positive change will come with financial benefits. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You'll have to shake things up to discover what's happening. Someone will go to great lengths to withhold the information you require to make a sound decision. Pay attention to detail, and be blatant regarding what you will contribute. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Extend your thoughts into actions, and bring about change that makes a difference. Be the guiding light instead of the critical eye. By putting your vocabulary to good use, you'll find the words that resonate with people who can help you achieve your goals. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Collect your thoughts and revise your plan. If you act prematurely, you will face controversy. Consider other people's feelings and how you might feel dealing with their circumstances. Kindness and consideration are in your best interest. Make peace and love priorities. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* An emotional incident will change everything. Contain your reaction to minimize the outcome. A rational approach, direct but kind words, and an alternative solution will help you gain respect and confidence from those who can influence the outcome. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* If you let your love shine, your kind heart will win approval. Don't mince words when defending someone or something that matters to you. Reconnecting with someone will confuse you. A decision someone makes will cause a change of heart. Honesty is the best policy. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Oversee money matters. Follow the paper trail and expenses, and be forthcoming regarding joint endeavors that can influence your reputation or financial well-being. Make an adjustment that puts your mind at ease, and you'll offset an emotional dispute with a loved one. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Keep a low profile. Don't overreact or get caught in someone's emotional meltdown. Bide your time, resolve personal matters and avoid taking the brunt of someone else's mistake. A last-minute change someone makes will end up being to your benefit. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* An empathetic but direct response to whatever someone asks of you or comes your way will help ward off retribution. Look for innovative ways to use your expertise to bring in more cash or make your life more meaningful. A change will be eye-opening. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charitable, perplexing and wise. You are dynamic and remote.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4				8	2	6		
							8	
		8			5		1	9
				3		9		
1		3		5	7			
	7	9			1			5
8				7				4
				2			3	
5	3					8		7

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/2

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	7	3	1	5	6	2	8	9
6	5	8	9	4	2	1	7	3
9	2	1	7	8	3	5	6	4
1	3	4	8	2	7	9	5	6
2	8	6	5	9	1	3	4	7
5	9	7	6	3	4	8	1	2
3	1	2	4	6	8	7	9	5
7	4	5	2	1	9	6	3	8
8	6	9	3	7	5	4	2	1

Difficulty: ★★ 8/1

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FOR THE LOVE OF CORN Solution: 6 letters

G	D	M	C	I	L	A	N	T	R	O	L	L	S	B
A	N	E	A	A	N	Y	E	L	L	O	W	A	L	S
R	L	I	T	E	N	N	E	E	W	O	L	L	A	H
D	C	E	V	S	T	N	R	N	H	O	S	L	I	O
E	I	O	N	I	A	S	E	O	O	S	P	I	D	N
N	L	L	I	R	G	O	L	D	C	H	E	R	Y	I
C	R	O	P	S	E	S	R	I	M	P	E	R	L	O
M	A	R	K	E	T	K	K	A	E	G	O	L	F	N
E	G	O	S	R	S	L	Z	N	N	V	I	P	M	Y
T	Ⓑ	Ⓞ	Ⓒ	U	A	E	Z	I	A	M	D	U	B	C
H	T	T	H	T	M	H	G	S	E	H	T	U	T	I
O	N	S	S	M	L	M	C	S	A	U	T	E	N	P
D	I	A	R	S	W	E	E	T	A	T	P	E	A	S
S	L	A	C	R	E	A	M	R	E	F	I	E	L	D
T	F	R	E	P	P	E	P	R	S	E	C	I	P	S

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Autumn, Butter, Canned, Char, Cilantro, Cob, Cream, Crops, Dips, Farm, Field, Flint, Fresh, Garden, Garlic, Ginger, Gold, Grill, Halloween, Honey, Husk, Kernel, Lime, Maize, Market, Maze, Melt, Methods, Oils, Onion, Oven, Peas, Pepper, Plant, Popcorn, Roasted, Rolls, Roots, Salt, Sauté, Savory, Slaw, Spices, Spicy, Stalk, Steam, Summer, Sweet, Thanksgiving, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Plywood

The NEW **Wonderword Grand Millennium #1** in LARGE PRINT is now available at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Angels slug 3 solo home runs and beat MLB-leading Braves

ATLANTA (AP)—Luis Rengifo, Randal Grichuk and Chad Wallach hit solo homers off Charlie Morton, Chase Silseth won his second straight start and the Los Angeles Angels cooled off the major league-leading Atlanta Braves with a 4-1 victory on Monday night.

Matt Olson's NL-best 36th homer and major league-leading 89th RBI made it 2-1 in the fifth, helping the Braves join the 2019 Minnesota Twins as the only teams with 200 long balls before August. Atlanta began the game with 31 more homers than the Los Angeles Dodgers, the No. 2 team.

The Braves (67-37) were coming off a three-game sweep of Milwaukee in which they scored 29 runs and went deep 11 times.

"Offensively, we had a really good ballgame pitched against us," Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said. "The starter was really good, the bullpen did a great job. We had a hard time generating much offense."

Los Angeles two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani, the 2021 AL MVP and the majors' homer leader with 39, went 2 for 3. He was hit by a pitch in the first and intentionally walked in the second. He ripped a single 113.3 mph to right in the fourth, singled off A.J. Minter in the seventh and was robbed of a three-run homer by center fielder Michael Harris II in the ninth.

Harris timed his leap at the wall perfectly, raising his glove over the 9-foot wall to bring the ball back. Ohtani drove it 406 feet.

Rengifo drove the game's third pitch to right-center. Grichuk, making his Angels debut a day after getting acquired with first baseman C.J. Cron in a trade with Colorado, hit an opposite-field shot to right in the fourth. Wallach drove his seventh homer 441 feet to left-center for a 3-1 lead in the sixth.

Cron's RBI single in the ninth made it 4-1.

The Angels (56-51) have won 10 of 13 and have the AL's best record since the All-Star break at 11-5. Los Angeles began the night five games back in the AL West and four games back of the final wild-card.

"It's exciting, we're in the playoff push," Wallach said. "Any time you're in that, it's always fun baseball."

Reynaldo López worked the final 1 2/3 innings to earn his fifth save.

Silseth (3-1) started in place of Griffin Channing, who was scratched with what Channing described as "general soreness" a few hours before the game. Making his third major league start, Silseth gave up three hits and one run in five innings.

AP

Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani hits a single in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Monday, July 31, 2023, in Atlanta.

"We pitched great," Angels manager Phil Nevin said. "Silseth was great. We told him yesterday he might have a chance to start today. Getting the official word this morning — maybe that helps, I don't know. We extend López there. That's a lot of pitches in a two- to three-day stretch. He was phenomenal. Going right after guys. There's a lot of life on that fastball."

Morton (10-9) lost his third straight start and has a 6.46 ERA over that span. The 39-year-old allowed six hits and three runs in six innings.

"I was encouraged by my curveball, I was encouraged by my delivery," Morton said. "And except for the first inning, I was encouraged by my ability to throw strikes."

REDS 6, CUBS 5

CHICAGO (AP)—Joey Votto, Christian Encarnacion-Strand and Will Benson each had two hits, and Cincinnati beat Chicago in the opener of a key four-game series between NL Central contenders.

After Andrew Abbott struggled, six Cincinnati relievers combined for 5 2/3 innings of one-run ball. Buck Farmer (3-4) got five outs for the win, and All-Star Alexis Díaz worked the ninth for his 32nd save in 33 opportunities.

Cincinnati (59-49) improved to 4-3 on a 10-game trip. It also increased its lead in the division to 1 1/2 games over Milwaukee.

Dansby Swanson hit his 13th homer for third-place Chicago (53-53), and Yan Gomes had three of the team's eight hits. But the Cubs were unable to overcome another shaky performance by Marcus Stroman (10-8).

ROCKIES 4, PADRES 3

DENVER (AP)—Ryan McMahon hit a sacrifice fly with the bases load in the bottom of the 10th inning, lifting Colorado past San Diego.

McMahon also homered and doubled, Elehuris Montero also had two hits and Brad Hand (3-1) got the win for Colorado. Rockies second baseman Brendan Rodgers made his season debut with a single in four at-bats as the designated hitter.

Trent Grisham hit a solo homer off Justin Lawrence with two outs in the ninth to tie it but San Diego failed to score in the 10th after loading the bases with no outs.

Colorado also loaded the bases with no outs in the bottom of the inning, and after a force play at home, McMahon lofted a ball to left off of Nick Martinez (4-4) and Brenton Doyle beat Juan Soto's throw home to win it.

ASTROS 7, GUARDIANS 3

HOUSTON (AP)—Yordan Alvarez hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning to put Houston on top after Noah Syndergaard exited his Cleveland debut with an injury.

J.P. France pitched seven strong innings for Houston, which moved within a half-game of idle AL West-leading Texas.

Cleveland fell one game under .500 and one game behind first-place Minnesota in the weak AL Central. Earlier Monday, the Guardians traded starting pitcher Aaron Civale to Tampa Bay for a minor league outfield prospect.

Syndergaard, acquired in a trade with the Los Angeles Dodgers last week, had allowed just two hits and Cleveland was up 2-0 when Jeremy Peña hit a ball that bounced off the pitcher's lower right leg. Syndergaard fielded the ball and got it to first for the out. But was lifted by manager Terry Francona.

France (7-3) yielded seven hits and two runs in seven innings for his fifth straight win. Eli Morgan (4-2) took the loss after replacing Syndergaard.

PHILLIES 4, MARLINS 2

MIAMI (AP)—Taijuan Walker became the first 12-game winner in the major leagues, throwing 6 2/3 solid innings in Philadelphia's win over Miami.

Walker (12-4) allowed two runs and six hits while striking out four to win his eighth decision.

Alec Bohm doubled, singled and had two walks and an RBI for the Phillies (57-49), who moved a half game ahead of the Marlins for the third NL wild-card spot.

Miami's Luis Arraez had three singles and increased his major league-leading batting average to .381. Jorge Soler ended a 12-game homerless drought with a two-run shot for the Marlins. Tanner Scott (4-4) took the loss.

ORIOLES 4, BLUE JAYS 2

TORONTO (AP)—Austin Hays made a lunging, game-saving catch of Whit Merrifield's liner in the ninth inning, and AL-best Baltimore remained unbeaten at Toronto this season.

Orioles closer Félix Bautista walked two with one out in the ninth before Merrifield lined a 99 mph fastball to left-center. Left fielder Hays sprinted toward the ball, left his feet and grabbed it just before he hit the turf. Bautista then struck out Santiago Espinal to complete the five-out save, his 29th in 34 opportunities.

Gunnar Henderson homered for Baltimore, which swept a three-game series at third-place Toronto in May. Ryan Mountcastle doubled twice and drove in three runs as the Orioles maintained their 1 1/2-game lead over Tampa Bay in the AL East.

Kyle Gibson (10-6) allowed one run and four hits in six-plus innings to win for the first time in four starts.

Toronto's Chris Bassitt (10-6) took his first loss since June 13 at Baltimore, allowing four runs and seven hits in six innings.

RAYS 5, YANKEES 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Tyler Glasnow pitched seven strong innings and Tampa Bay hit four early homers off spot starter Jhony Brito to beat New York.

Brandon Lowe launched a two-run drive in the first and Wander Franco added a solo shot in the third before Isaac Paredes and Josh Lowe went back-to-back in the fourth.

Glasnow (5-3) allowed three hits and struck out eight for Tampa Bay, which is behind first-place Baltimore in the AL East and leading the wild-card standings. Robert Stephenson and Pete Fairbanks finished the three-hitter.

Brito (4-5) was called up from the minors earlier in the day to start in place of Domingo Germán, who was scratched because of discomfort in his armpit that prevented him from playing catch Sunday. Germán entered out of the bullpen in the fifth and worked five scoreless innings of two-hit ball.

Jake Bauers homered in the second for the last-place Yankees (55-51).

NATIONALS 5, BREWERS 3

WASHINGTON (AP)—Joey Meneses homered and drove in three runs, and Washington handed Milwaukee its fourth straight loss.

Lane Thomas had a pair of RBI singles for Washington, which has won seven of 11 overall and eight of its last nine at home.

Joey Wiemer homered for the Brewers, who are chasing first-place Cincinnati in the NL Central.

Jordan Weems (2-0) recorded the final out of the seventh and earned the win. Kyle Finnegan picked up his 15th save.

Washington went ahead in the seventh with three runs against Elvis Peguero (2-4).

DIAMONDBACKS 4, GIANTS 3, 11 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Ketel Marte hit a tiebreaking double to the warning track in right-center with none out in the 11th inning and Arizona denied San Francisco a third straight walk-off win.

Taylor Rogers (5-4) gave up Marte's hit to score Geraldo Perdomo, who began the inning on second base.

Emmanuel Rivera hit a go-ahead single in the 10th only for the Giants to even it in the bottom half when Kevin Ginkel (5-0) threw a wild pitch that scored Brandon Crawford for the tying run. Ginkel recovered for the win.

Scott McGough finished and earned his ninth save for the D-backs, who had lost three of four and eight of 10.

Wilmer Flores homered in the third for San Francisco, which dropped to 4-2 in its season-high nine-game homestand after a six-game losing streak to end the last road trip.

MARINERS 6, RED SOX 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Cal Raleigh hit two solo homers off Nick Pivetta, Julio Rodríguez added a two-run single in a four-run eighth inning, and Seattle moved a season-best four games over .500 with a win over Boston.

Seattle (55-51) concluded its most successful month of the season, going 17-9 in July and inched closer in the AL West and wild-card races.

Raleigh's two homers were the only mistakes by Pivetta (7-6), who pitched 7 1/3 innings, allowed five hits and struck out 10.

Boston lost its third straight and has scored three runs or less in four straight games.

Matt Brash (6-3), one of five relievers used by the Mariners, picked up the win.

US needs win or draw to avoid risk of elimination in group play

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—The United States arrived at the Women's World Cup as the favorite to win an unprecedented third consecutive title. But after an underwhelming draw against the Netherlands, there's a real chance the Americans could be eliminated in group play for the first time in tournament history.

The U.S. plays Portugal in the third and final match of Group E play, and if Portugal pulls off an upset Tuesday at Eden Park in Auckland, the Americans could be in big trouble.

The United States needs to either win or draw against Portugal, one of eight teams playing in its first World Cup, to ensure the Americans continue to play in this tournament.

"I think we feel like we have to win everything all the time," said American star Megan Rapinoe. "That's the expectation for ourselves. That's the expectation playing for U.S. national team. It's just kind of like, 'Why would you come into the World Cup if you don't think that you should win it, and if you don't think that you can win it?'"

The United States sits atop the group after a 3-0 victory over Vietnam in the tournament opener, and a 1-1 draw with the Netherlands last Thursday in Wellington. The Dutch are tied with the U.S. on points, but the Americans have the tiebreaker on goals scored.

Portugal lost to the Dutch in its opener but then beat Vietnam 2-0. So if the Portuguese beat the United States, they'll move on, and the Americans would then need Vietnam to beat the Dutch in Dunedin — while keeping their advantage on goal differential — to advance.

"One thing is for sure, that we have a job to do and that's first and foremost to take care of our game, so our main focus right now it our performance, our team, and Portugal," U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski said. "What happens on the other side is something we can't control. We have to stay focused on the things we can control."

AP

U.S. team sing their national anthem ahead of play in the Women's World Cup Group E soccer match between the United States and the Netherlands in Wellington, New Zealand, Thursday, July 27, 2023.

Portugal could use a swarming defense to try to prevent the United States from scoring the way Vietnam—unsuccessfully—played the Americans in the opener.

Portugal defender Ana Borges said her team will be prepared.

"This is the stage where we want to be. It's against these teams that we want to play because we're going to learn and grow from them," Borges said. "Not saying anything about the other team, but if we weren't prepared for this challenge, we wouldn't be playing football."

CHINA-ENGLAND

England is in very good shape headed into its Group D finale against China, needing only a draw Tuesday night in Adelaide, Australia, to win the group and advance to the round of 16.

Even a loss would be OK and push England through as group winners so long as Denmark doesn't beat Haiti. If Denmark won and England lost, the group winner would be decided by FIFA tiebreakers.

England edged out a 1-0 victory over Haiti to open the tournament, then beat Denmark by the same score.

China lost 1-0 to Denmark in the opener but rebounded with a 1-0 win over Haiti and is now trying to keep its streak intact of advancing out of group play in all eight of its World Cup appearances.

It will be a tough task: China can advance to the round of 16 if the Chinese beat England. But if Denmark beats Haiti, coupled with a China win, then FIFA tiebreakers would come into a play. A loss would mean China's only chance at advancing would be if Haiti beat Denmark.

England and China meet for just the fifth time, but first since a 2-1 China victory in 2015.

England has scored in each of its last 15 matches at the Women's World Cup for a tally of 25 goals since 2015. A goal against China would make England the first team to score in 16 consecutive matches in the tournament.

China is looking to win consecutive World Cup games for the first time since 1999.

VIETNAM-NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands wants to win every match in the Women's World Cup but none more so than Tuesday's game against Vietnam.

At stake: avoiding Sweden in the knockout round.

The Dutch, the tournament runner-up in 2019, need only a win or a draw in the Group E match played in Dunedin, New Zealand. And even a loss would be OK so long as the United States beats Portugal in a game being played simultaneously.

But the Netherlands has mapped out the tournament and wants no part of Sweden anytime soon.

"The first aim is always to win and get to the last 16 and then after that if we can score goals we will, of course," Dutch coach Andries Jonker said. "But looking at our colleagues from the U.S. and Portugal, we've noticed it's not all that easy. We've never shown any kind of arrogance, but if we get chances to score goals we will. We would prefer to play against the number two in this group and not Sweden."

The Netherlands are tied with the United States for the top spot in the group after playing to a 1-1 draw against the Americans and a 1-0 win over Portugal.

Vietnam has already been eliminated from its first Women's World Cup following losses to the United States and Portugal. Vietnam has lost its last five internationals by a combined score of 18-1.

"The Netherlands tries to have as many goals as possible, and I have to say we are at a low level," Vietnam coach Mai Duc Chung said. "If we compare with Asia, we're still at a low level. So if we compare with the world, we are still quite behind. It is a success for us already. In the past two matches we have tried our best. Great effort already."

HAITI-DENMARK

First-time Women's World Cup participant Haiti would like to stick around a bit longer but needs a miracle against in the Group D finale against Denmark to have any shot to advance.

Haiti needs to beat Denmark in the Tuesday match played in Perth, Australia, and hope England beats China. If both those things happen, Haiti's only chance would still come down to FIFA's tiebreaker system.

It's very long odds for Haiti, which has played better in this tournament than its 0-2 record shows. Haiti held both England and China to one goal each in the first two matches.

Haiti is on a six-game losing streak headed into what is probably its final game of this tournament.

Denmark, meanwhile, is trying to advance to the group stage for the first time since 1995. Denmark was a 1-0 winner over China to start the tournament, then lost 1-0 to England and heads into the game tied for second in the group with China with three points each.

A win over Haiti pushes Denmark through to the next round so long as England doesn't lose to China. That scenario would put tiebreakers into play.

The Danes, in the tournament for the first time since 2007, can also get through with a draw, but again, only if England beats China.

Denmark has won five of its last seven international matches.

Canada's Sinclair exits after loss to Australia, possibly for last time

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—In what could have been Canada star Christine Sinclair's last Women's World Cup match, she and her Olympic champion teammates were k nocked out of contention by Australia 4-0 in a group-stage finale Monday.

"I'm obviously still processing it," Canada coach Bev Priestman said after the match. "Even hearing you say, 'Could this be Christine Sinclair's last game?' It breaks my heart."

Sinclair, 40, the all-time leading goal scorer in international soccer, women or men, has played in six Women's World Cups. Canada finished fourth in her tournament debut in 2003, its best finish to date.

"Things have to change," Sinclair said. "We don't have a professional league. We don't have that pathway for players to make the national team. If this isn't a wakeup call, I don't know what is."

Sinclair and her teammates have been fighting for equal pay and support from Canada Soccer.

Canada hasn't advanced out of the group stage in five of its eight Women's World Cup appearances. It is the first reigning Olympic champion to fail to reach the knockout round in the Women's World Cup.

"From the ecstasy of two summers ago, winning gold, to losing tonight, as painful as it is, it's part of sport," Sinclair said. "You have to be able to accept the losses the same way you accept the wins."

If Sinclair had scored a goal at this tournament, she would have become the first player, female or male, to score in six World Cups. That she didn't underscores Canada's struggles to generate offense against Australia and in its opening 0-0 draw with Nigeria.

Adriana Leon scored Canada's only goal of the tournament in its 2-1 win over Ireland, with the other coming off an Irish own goal.

"We created some good chances in this tournament, we just weren't clinical," Canada's Sophie Schmidt said.

Canada took 11 shots against Australia, but only three were on target.

Meanwhile, Hayley Raso scored two goals in the first half, followed by two more for Australia from Mary Fowler and Steph Catley in the second half.

Canada also had to contend with a pro-Australia crowd at Melbourne Rectangular Stadium.

"With the home fans, we know they'd get momentum and energy from that," Sinclair said.

Canada slid to third in Group B. Nigeria finished second after playing Ireland to a 0-0 draw on Monday and advanced to the round of 16 with group winner Australia.

"Hopefully looking back on it, in time, we created memories, we got young players their first World Cup experience that will go on and will lead Canada in the future," Sinclair said.

Clippers' Coffey arrested on suspicion of carrying concealed firearm

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles Clippers shooting guard Amir Coffey was arrested early Sunday on a firearms misdemeanor in Hollywood, authorities said.

Coffey, 26, was a passenger in a vehicle that police pulled over for speeding shortly before 2 a.m., according to Los Angeles Police Officer Tony Im, a department spokesperson.

Coffey was cited for carrying a concealed firearm in a vehicle, Im said. He was released on his own recognizance from a county jail on $10,000 bail.

He is scheduled to appear in court on Aug. 24, jail records show.

The driver was cited for speeding, and another passenger received a misdemeanor for possession of marijuana, Im said.

Coffey has been with the Clippers for four seasons.

"We're aware of a legal situation involving Amir Coffey and are looking into it," the team said in a statement on Monday.

It's possible that Coffey could face sanctions from the NBA. The league typically reviews all matters of personal and criminal conduct and can issue a fine or suspension when it deems appropriate.

The 6-foot-7 guard/forward has been primarily a bench player and is averaging 5.5 points per game.

He played in 50 games last season, including nine starts, and averaged 3.4 points per game. His best season came in 2021-22, when he played in 69 games with 30 starts and averaged 9.0 points and 2.9 rebounds per

SBL, UOG conclude successful baseball tourney

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The 2023 SBL-UOG Baseball Friendship Tournament finally wrapped up a rainy week of camaraderie and sportsmanship with a final game between the SBL All Stars and the University of Guam Tritons on Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Baseball Field.

The SBL All Stars had a chance to redeem themselves after they lost the first game, 4-5, last Thursday, and they turned things around and won, 5-4, in a rain-shortened game.

The SBL teams Junior Nationals, SBL All Stars, and Cardinals ended up winning three of the four matchups.

Tritons head coach Roke Alcantara Jr. said in an interview after the tourney that the team had a great time. "We are so thankful and grateful for the opportunity to compete with the local teams and to have hosted a clinic for the kids."

In an interview last Saturday afternoon during the clinic, he said of the two-day delay because of the weather that it was frustrating because they came ready to compete. "The rain was consistent and it was kind of like slowing our momentum and it was something that we could not control, but we just stayed ready. We came out here even when it was raining and did some drills."

At the time of the interview, the tourney had already concluded two games and Alcantara said that "it was really good baseball" as both games ended by just a one run win.

The Tritons were set to play against the Junior Nationals that Saturday night and Alcantara said that they were excited to play them because they are all talented players. "I know how talented they are and I know at least some of them because I was able to work with them in the camp last year at Capitol Hill, and I was able to see some of them play; I'm even following them on Instagram. Shout out to the Junior Nationals!"

The Junior Nationals ended up beating the Tritons that night, 7-5.

When asked about the game against the undefeated Cardinals to whom they lost, 14-15, last Friday, Alcantara said "there's a reason why they're undefeated and it's because they have really good chemistry going on. They're really deep in their pitching, their hitters are always swinging the bat, making contact with the ball, and they're just a really tough team."

On future friendship tourneys, Alcantara said "I really hope there is a next time because there's so much that we share as brother and sister island. The passion that we have for this sport and the game, we reflect off each other. We are the same when it comes to a lot of things—our culture and everything. So, yes, we want there to be many, many more opportunities like this, many more friendship tournaments, and many more clinics for the kids."

He added that hopefully the next tournaments will be planned on days that the weather is not rainy.

As for SBL president Jay Santos, he said it was a very successful tourney and welcomes the Tritons to more tourneys next time. He was glad that the tourney pulled through despite the delays. "It was a huge success in terms of the competitive games that were played. Coach Roke Alcantara was very pleased that his boys finally got some competition in and we both agreed this was not going to be a one and done thing—we're going to make it an annual tournament."

He added, "I'm very proud of our Junior Nationals. They played very well against UOG along with all the other baseball teams. Coach Roke did mention he was impressed with the level of competitiveness amongst our teams and just nothing but positive feedback from him for our teams."

Santos then thanked SBL's Herman Kintol and the entire SBL board, along with Derron Flores and Alvin Takai for taking care of the field.

The Tritons team consisted of Alcantara, Gavin Lim, Gage Lim, Justin Delos Santos, O'neil Yobech, Andrew Perez, Kyle Martinez, Kobe Martinez, Larry Flores II, Jathan Muna-Barnes, Todd Yip, and three Saipan born players, Derrin Pangelinan, Rico Seman, and Austin Norita.

The Junior Nationals team included Joell Broja, J.R. Suel, Achilles Evangelista, Franko Nakamura, Kazu Dela Cruz, Angelo Igitol, Joel Deleon Guerrero, Andre Iguel, Justin Camacho, Jylon Sablan, Dizzle Diaz, J.P. Sablan, Benji Palacios, Jon Diaz, RIcky Riungel, and J.P. Sablan.

The SBL All Stars were JBoy Mendiola, Jobe Reyes, Virgil Secharmidal, Harry Nakamura, Wally Emul, Angel Palacios, Dennis Cabrera, Isaiah Lizama, Josenio Alvarez, Andrew Camacho, Tindin Leon Guerrero, Jason Reyes, Joe Guerrero, Jose Lizama, Franco Flores, Henry Lizama Jr., Cam Towai, and M.J. Sakisat.

The Cardinals team was made up of Shane Yamada, Eli Aughenbaugh, Nate Camacho, Gerald Cabrera, Brian Camacho, Poland Masaharu, Ton Salas, Nokki Saralu, Pat Tenorio Jr., Thorn Sablan, Shane Mendiola, Keoni Kaipat, Jordal Suel, Jonah Flores, Nathan Guerrero, K.K. Villagomez, and Shane Mendiola.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The University of Guam Tritons team poses with the SBL All Stars team after their game in the 2023 SBL-UOG Baseball Friendship Tournament last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The University of Guam Tritons team poses with the Junior Nationals after their game in the 2023 SBL-UOG Baseball Friendship Tournament last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

COMETS

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However, the Comets pulled away in the next innings and brought home nine more runs as they capitalized on the Blue Jays' lack of fire power, for a 10-run deficit win.

This Saturday, Aug. 4, if it's not raining again, the Little Cubs and Twins will continue their game at 9:30am, with the Braves-Toros game right after.

After the round-robin games, there will be a one-game elimination for the playoffs.

SBL board member Shine Tenorio said that the SBL thanks Tracy Del Rosario and P.J. and Desiree Ngotel for their donation of baseball for the tourney.

UOG

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ing drills: how to properly catch a backhand, how to properly catch forehand, how to build momentum to make the throw; even some batting drills as well and just really getting down to the root of the sport and just making sure that these kids are going to continue to grow, because we want them to continue their experiences and their competitions. We want them to continue to play baseball because when we get older, we want there to be a future in the sport that we can go watch and enjoy."

He then said, "We're excited and we're so happy to be here. We're so happy to be with the children from the Marianas—their passion for the sport is awesome. Love it."

As for the clinic participants who he saw some potential in playing college ball, Alcantara said that there was a lot. He was so impressed by J.R. Suel and Justin Camacho from the junior national team. "I was so impressed to see how developed they are as young teenagers. You can see that if they continue to work on their craft, stay passionate to the game, respect the game, and continue their progression, you can tell that they're going to be really, really good ball players and they can be dangerous in the Saipan Baseball League as they grow."

Karina Camacho, a young baseball player who was at the field last Saturday afternoon, said that she learned some basic moves that she was already taught before, but that she enjoyed the experience and it was helpful.

Along with Alcantara, the baseball players who assisted in the clinic were Gavin Lim, Gage Lim, Justin Delos Santos, Rico Seman, O'neil Yobech, Andrew Perez, Kyle Martinez, Kobe Martinez, Larry Flores, Jathan Muna-Barnes, and Todd Yip.

The Tritons headed back home yesterday, as they concluded their last game of the 2023 SBL-UOG Baseball Friendship Tournament Monday night against the SBL All Stars.

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Ocanada and Yobech are the team captains, while NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita is the head coach and will be assisted by Jersh Angeles. Chris Aninzo is the goalkeeper coach, while Sebastian Manabat and Jed Buenviaje are the kit manager and physiotherapist, respectively.

The NMI U23 Men's National Team will be battling Guam in two games with the first one set for this Thursday, Aug. 3, at 8:30pm at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville and the second on Saturday, Aug. 5, at 5pm. This will be the first time that the NMI will host back-to-back games for the Marianas Football Cup.

"The first game is going to be very important, as you have to set the tone for the two-game format. We have to start strong, especially now that we are playing in front of the home crowd," Yobech said.

Ocanada acknowledged the pressure of playing at home, but he said the team will take this as an added inspiration to go out there and play their best against Guam. As for having a bunch of young players, Ocanada said though this will be the first time for them to play in the Marianas Cup, these members of the team are no stranger to high-level competitions, as they've been to a couple of tournaments or played training matches off-island the past two years. The team was in Japan early last month for a training camp.

Meanwhile, Mita said that they welcome the two-tier format of the Marianas Football Cup 2023.

"This is a huge opportunity for our national teams playing international matches at home. I really appreciate the NMIFA, GFA, and our stakeholders and sponsors for working hard to bring back the Marianas Cup," said Mita. The last Marianas Cup was hosted by Guam in 2019 before the pandemic hit and the trademark tournament between Guam and the NMI was shelved for three years.

"International soccer rapidly improves beyond our imagination. It is very important to play this kind of high level of international matches regularly to catch up to the Asian level. Both the NMI men's and women's national team take this opportunity very seriously and they continue to work hard to not only deliver best results, but also to strengthen the team and get ready for future international tournaments, like the EAFF and AFC competitions and the Solomon Islands Pacific Games," the head coach added.

Mita said the men's U23 squad players are mentally and physically ready to play Marianas Football Cup, as their weeklong training camp in Japan really helped prepare the team.

"The camp was supported by the Japan Football Association and we had it at the world standard facility J-Village in Fukushima. The team completely managed to focus only on playing soccer and played 3 games as simulation matches for the Marianas Cup. The team showed a lot of improvement and positive outlook during the training camp," Mita said.

The head coach calls on the community to support the NMI national teams playing in the Marianas Football Cup 2023, which is supported by Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, USA Fanter, Triple J, IT&E, Quality Distributors, GPPC, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, D&Q, Take-Care Insurance, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and Island Apparel. ***(PR)***

Angels slug 3 solo home runs and beat MLB-leading Braves.

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SBL, UOG conclude successful baseball tourney.

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Comets fly over Blue Jays in U12 baseball tourney

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

With the late July showers putting a damper on outdoor sports in the CNMI, only one game was completed in the Saipan Baseball League U12 Baseball Tournament last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field in Susupe.

Before the rain came, the Comets flew over the Blue Jays, 16-6, while the second game between the Little Cubs and Twins was rained out, and the last game between the Braves and Toros was postponed.

The Comets streaked through the field in the form of consecutive runs for their second win of the tourney.

Although the Blue Jays struck first in the first inning from runs made by the leadoff batter Kody Maratita then Kevin Maratita, followed by Scott Muna, the Comets replied with fervor in the next inning and put up seven runs.

Deren Benjamin heated things up for the icy Comets as he got a leadoff walk, followed by a single by Carmelo Pangelinan. Pangelinan, along with six more batters then rounded the bases after the Blue Jays' pitching staff could not locate the strike zone and ended up walking seven consecutive Comets batters.

The Comets' lead was four runs but the Blue Jays did not count themselves out yet. They scored three in the second thanks to runs from the bottom of their order—Treat Kaipat and Gunshiro Sasamoto. Kody Maratita then scored their third run for a 6-7 ball game.

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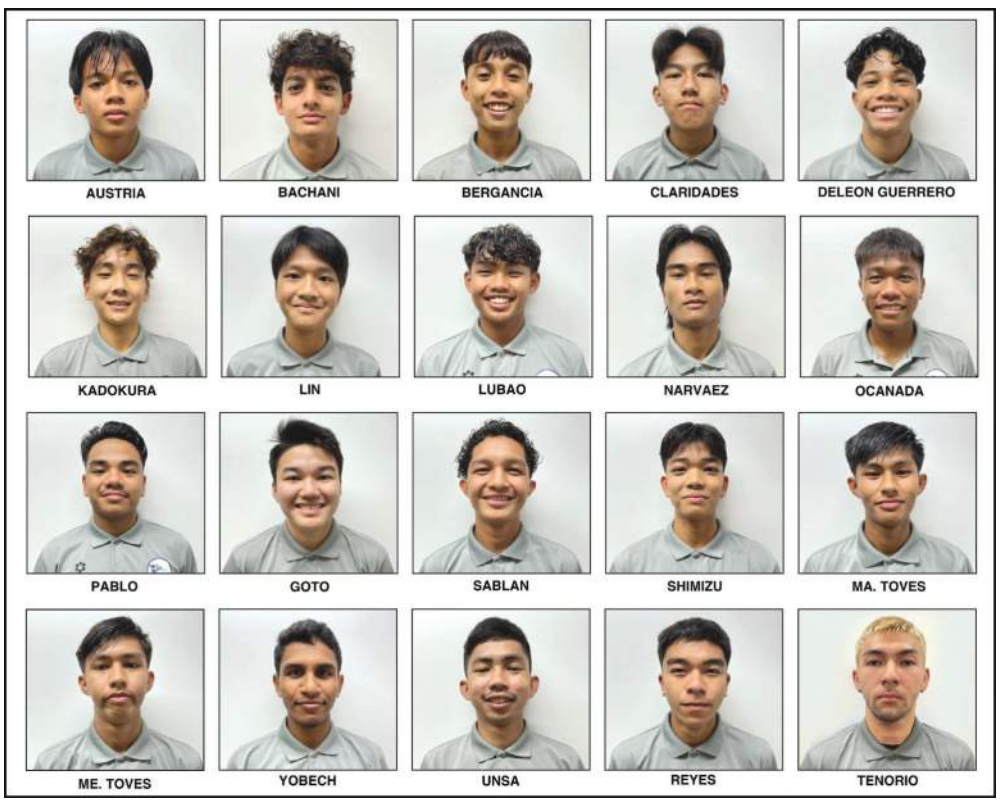
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Blue Jays pitcher Kevin Maratita winds up for a pitch during their first game against the Braves last July 22 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field in Susupe.

20 named to U23 Men's National Team



Members of the NMI U23 Men's National Team that will be playing against Guam in the Marianas Football Club 2023 have been named with the host squad coming up with a mix of experienced players and young guns.

Sunjoon Tenorio, Dev Bachani, and Kohtaro Goto, who are all playing in the collegiate ranks and have represented the NMI in the past are the veteran player named on the team and will be joined by fellow NMI national team returnees Ronnel Ocanada, Tanapon Unsa, Brian Lubao, Daniel Pablo, Merrick and Markus Toves, and Jireh Yobech. Completing the team roster are young players Anthony Bergancia, Andrew Sablan, Akira Kadokura, Ariel Narvaez, Cody Shimizu, Leland Deleon Guerrero, Monico Claridades, Zhi Xiang Lin, Anthony Austria, and Vicente Reyes.

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UOG Tritons holds 2-day youth baseball clinic

LEIGH GASES
Nine-year-old Karina Camacho, left, loads up for the swing as University of Guam Tritons baseball players Gavin Lim, second from right, and Gage Lim, right, watch during the UOG Tritons baseball team youth baseball clinic last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Over the course of their more than weeklong wet and rainy stay on Saipan, the University of Guam Tritons baseball team pulled off their youth baseball clinic despite delays to their friendly tournament with the Saipan Baseball League.

Despite the on-and-off rainy weather, CNMI youth still made it out to soak in some baseball skills from the UOG team at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The clinic began last Friday with a good group of aspiring ball players and continued through Saturday with about a handful more for about 20 or more participants.

The youth were taught by players from the Tritons baseball team along with their head coach, Roke Alcantara Jr.

In an interview at the field last Saturday afternoon, Alcantara said that their clinic's purpose was to reach out and interact with CNMI's student-athletes, answer their questions about what it's like to be student-athletes, and teach them the proper mechanics, basics, and fundamentals of baseball.

Alcantara added that they were able to work with the older children that came out on Friday and saw how talented and how high their IQ and love for the game was. "We were just excited to work with them," he said. Even some of the junior national team players came out to the clinic.

Some of the specific things taught during the clinic were "footwork, because footwork is important in this sport. And then we go with the basic field-

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